

Walk along the Island

To understand why Vasilyevsky Island is so beloved by residents of Saint-Petersburg, we offer you to walk along these places.

“Walk along the Island” route will introduce you the most famous historic and architectural monuments of the city centre and Vasilyevsky Island.

At first you will see Senate and Saint Isaac’s Squares. And after crossing Palace Bridge you will find yourself on the biggest Island of Saint-Petersburg. An amazing architectural ensemble of Stock Exchange Square opens up in front of you. You will meet Sphinxes - the most ancient and mysterious guards of the city, walk through the narrowest street of Saint-Petersburg and enjoy great views of University Embankment.

Vasilyevsky Island has its special attraction and mysticism, and time stops, when this enigmatic world opens its doors in front of us...



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 to 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.

Menshikov Palace



Universitetskaya Naberezhnaya, 15
Vasileostrovskaya
59.938644,30.295274

+7(812)323-11-12
www.hermitagemuseum.org/wps/po
1 ч.

Menshikov Palace is the residence, which was built for the first Saint-Petersburg governor General Alexander Menshikov . The Palace was built in 1710-1721 by architects G.Fontana and G. Schadel. Menshikov Palace is the first stone building in Saint-Petersburg. The building is the impressive example of Petrine Baroque style. The two-colored vivid facade painting, pilasters with carved capitals make the facade look magnificent. The interior of the palace looks ceremonial as well, for its decoration the most expensive materials were used, which were imported or custom-made by Russian masters. The palace items were picked out from the Hermitage Museum's collection, which houses the property not only of Russian tsars but also of noble families.

Admission fee

Entrance ticket - 300 RUR

Kunstkamera



Universitetskaya Naberezhnaya, 3
Admiralteyskaya, Nevskiy Prospekt, Gostiny Dvor
59.941382,30.303629

+7(812)328-14-12
www.kunstkamera.ru/en/
1 ч. 30 мин.

Kunstkamera is the first museum in the city and one of the most interesting ones in Saint-Petersburg. Since XVIII the building of Kunstkamera is a symbol of Russian Academy of Sciences. The collection of rarities and anatomical anomalies. The Globe of Gottorf - the first and the biggest in the world globe-planetarium.

Admission fee

Entrance ticket: for adults - 300 RUR, for schoolchildren, students - 100 RUR

L The most well-known sights - Must see!

Kunstkamera, also known as Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography, is not only one of the most interesting museums in Saint-Petersburg, but also one of the most popular ones among tourists and inhabitants. Its wonderful collection will interest both, adults and kids.

L The city in architecture and monuments

Kunstkamera is the first museum in Russia, it was founded by Peter the Great in 1727. The building of the museum was constructed in 1718-1734 by the design of the architect G. Mattarnovy, it is the oldest museum building in the world. Since the beginning of the XVIII century the building of Kunstkamera is the symbol of Russian Academy of Sciences, because right here Saint-Petersburg Academy of Sciences, which was founded by Peter I, was situated. The Academy is the birthplace of the present Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint-Petersburg State University, Library of the Academy of Sciences, The Main Astronomical observatory and many other Russian scientific and museum institutions. The museum was established with one main goal - exploration and research of the rarities, which were made by nature and man.

R Civilization: the science and technology progress, the household mode, industrial city

Nowadays the museum collection is one of the most interesting and complete among such kinds of the collections all over the world. The collection contains over 2000000 items and displays a variety of the cultures and peoples of the Old World and the New World, which are presented in the following sections: "North America", "Japan", "Africa", "China and Mongolia", "India and Indonesia", "Australia and Oceania". However Anatomical section attracts visitors the most, there are exhibits with different anatomical deformities and natural anomalies. Also in the museum there are expositions devoted to the history of Kunstkamera and history of the Russian science in XVIII century ("M. Lomonosov and the Academy of Science of XVIII century", "The first astronomical observatory of the Academy of Science" and "The Globe of Gottorf").

R Interesting for children

In the museum the special focus is made on the work with kids. The program for children "My Kunstkamera" includes different excursions, game-lessons, contests, festivals, routes, which make visiting of the museum more interesting for kids. The most popular exposition among children - "The Globe of Gottorf" - it is the first and in former times the biggest globe-planetarium in the world, its diameter is 3.1 meters. The Globe was constructed in 1664 in Gottorf duchy, the author of this project is A. Olearius. 10 July 1713 the diocesan of Gottorf duchy Christian August signed an order to transfer the globe to Petersburg as a diplomatic present to Peter the Great. On 20 March 1717 it was brought to Petersburg, where later was set up in the building of Kunstkamera.

Bronze Horseman and Senate Square



- Senatskaya Ploshchad'
- Admiralteyskaya
- 59.936532,30.302137

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-
- 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.

L 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. Shtauber, 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 Torricelli 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.

Spit of Vasilyevsky Island



-  Birzhevaya Ploshchad'
-  Vasileostrovskaya
-  59.944158,30.306568



0 ч. 30 мин.

Spit of Vasilyevsky Island is one of the most prominent architectural ensembles of Saint-Petersburg, from which an amazing view over the Neva River and other architectural ensembles of the city opens up.

L The most well-known sights - Must see!

The Spit of Vasilyevsky Island is one of the most wonderful architectural ensembles of the city. Every day a lot of tourists and inhabitants come to the Spit to enjoy the beauty of ensemble and make great photos.

L The city in architecture and monuments

The Spit of Vasilyevsky Island is one of the greatest architectural ensembles of the city. It presents the stretched part of the island in its eastern side. The Spit began to be developed during the Peter's I times. He wanted to make it the cultural and business center of Saint-Petersburg. For that purpose in 1719-1721 the project of the architect Domenico Trezzini was created, which stipulated the construction of the government building on the territory of the spit: the Twelve Collegia building, the Stock Exchange, trade courtyard and the cathedral. Since 1720s the base of the Kunstkamera, trade place Gostiny Dvor was laid as well as the houses of Apraksin, Demidov, Naryshkin, Lopyhin families. In 1805-1810 the building of the Stock Exchange erected here and in front of it - the Rostral columns, which are one of the main symbols of the city (by architect J. Thomas de Thomon). The ensemble is completed with the buildings of the southern and northern warehouses and custom house, which were constructed by the design of the architect I. Lukini.

L Captivating views

The Spit of Vasilyevsky Island also attracts a lot of tourists thanks to an amazing view, which opens from it. From here you can enjoy the panorama of Palace Embankment and Winter Palace, Peter and Paul Fortress and Peter and Paul Cathedral, Summer Garden, Admiralty and the cupola of Saint Isaac's Cathedral.




R Love and romance

The Spit of Vasilyevsky Island is the beloved place for newlyweds, who go here every day to take their wedding photos, to smash glasses for luck and to wish each other happy family life. It is a common place for letting off white pigeons and making wishes. Also it is considered that ones, who kissed near Rostral columns, will never apart from each other.

Palace Bridge



Universitetskaya Naberezhnaya, 1
Vasileostrovskaya
59.941234,30.308036

   0 ч. 15 мин.

Palace bridge - is one of the thirteen draw-bridges in the city, which became one of the symbols of Saint-Petersburg. Unique views, which open from the bridge won't let anyone indifferent.

Additional information:

You can enjoy the architectural image of this object twenty-four-hour.

L Captivating views

Palace bridge attracts a lot of photographers because a wonderful panorama over Neva embankment opens up from here and the photos taken here will be absolutely beautiful and fascinating. From the Palace bridge you can see Palace Square, Peter and Paul fortress and the Admiralty, and also you can observe the cupola of the Saint Isaac's Cathedral.

R The most well-known sights - Must see!

One of the reasons why tourists come to Saint-Petersburg and wait for the night time is to see famous draw-bridges. Palace bridge is a real mark of the city. Its unique illumination makes its magic appearance, especially at night.

R The city in architecture and monuments

Palace bridge - is one of the thirteen drawbridges of the city, but its beauty and unique view, which opens from it, make it one of the main symbols of the Northern Capital. The bridge was named after the Winter Palace - the main residence of Russian emperors. As well as many other architectural buildings, which were erected before the February revolution, after 1916, it was without any developments in construction, but later it was finally finished. Palace bridge was built by the design of the engineer A. P. Pshenitskogo, but the architect R. F. Meltser was responsible for the whole concept and amazing beauty. In 1977 the bridge was reconstructed by the group of architects and engineers. The lanterns and the draw system were quite recast. The bridge mechanism easily rises seven ton spans up and it looks very impressive.

Universitetskaya Embankment



- Universitetskaya naberezhnaya
- Vasileostrovskaya
- 59.943857,30.305675

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-
- 1 ч.

From Universitetskaya Embankment the great views open over the prominent architectural monuments, which are located on the both embankments of the Neva River.

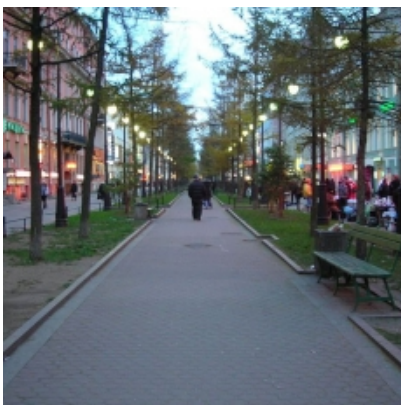
L The city in architecture and monuments

Universitetskaya Embankment is one of the main coast lines of the Big Neva. There are museums, prominent architectural monuments, the State University building and Kunstkamera. Embankment begins from Birzhevoi Bridge and runs up to Trezzini Square. The length of the embankment is not too big - 1173 meters. And if you compare this figure and the number of historical and architectural monuments, located here, it falls into place why this side of the Neva River is considered as one of the main sights of Saint-Petersburg. As well as the majority of streets and building of the city, Universitetskaya Embankment was renamed a lot of times, in 1741-1756 it was Nalichnaya Street, as the front street of the Neva embankment. Then it was the Big Embankment, Embankment of Perspective, Kadetskaya Embankment and Kadetskaya Naberezhnaya Liniya in honor of the Szlachta cadet corps, which is still located here in the building number 15. Strangely enough, there was a period when embankment had no name, but only up to 1887, when a wonderful ensemble of buildings of the State University, which amazes with its beauty, appeared here. As well as the Stock Exchange building, which can be seen from both: left and right embankments of the Neva River, Rostral columns on the Spit of Vasilyevsky Island, Twelve Collegia building, Palace Bridge, Zoological museum, building of Russian Academy of Sciences, Kunstkamera, Manege of cadet corps, famous sphinxes in front of the Academy of Arts building, Blagoveshchensky Bridge, Trezzini House, Menshikov Palace. Amazing views open up from each part of Universitetskaya Embankment.

L Captivating views

Wonderful view opens up from here, classic Petersburg: Admiralty and Angliiskaya Embankments, the Neva River, the cupola of Saint Isaac's Cathedral and, of course, the Bronze Horsemen. Welcome to Universitetskaya Embankment!

6-7 Lines of Vasilyevsky Island



- 6-7 Liniya Vasilyevskogo ostrova
- Vasileostrovskaya
- 59.939386,30.282909

-
-
- 0 ч. 30 мин.

Here you will find the possibility to walk along one of the pedestrian streets of the city and enjoy the architectural monuments, located on this street.

R The city in architecture and monuments

6-7 Lines of Vasilyevsky Island is one of the sights of Saint-Petersburg. Lines of Vasilyevsky Island, also known as "Vaska", how citizens name this district with loving care, are not as wide and spacious as central highways of the city, but they have its own history. 6-7 Lines of Vasilyevsky Island are two sides of one street, pedestrian zone, gathering Bolshoi and Sredny avenues of Vasilyevsky Island. Numerous cafes, shops, restaurants and historical buildings make this place very popular tourist route. Streets were named like that in 1718 during active construction of this area. In fact, street begins from the very embankment of Smolenka River and runs through the whole half of the island - up to Leytenanta Shmidta Embankment. Since August 1728 the first horse tramway started to run right through this route. Horse-drawn carriages run from Admiralty Square, then through Konnogvardeisky Boulevard up to 6th Line. In 2004 the horse tramway of 1872-1878s was set up in the centre of the square of 6-7 Lines, right next to Vasleostrovkaya metro station. In the carriage of this horse tramway there is a box-office. Later, in 2005 bronze horses were placed near the tramway, and in 2009 a coachman was set up next to it. In 1732 on 6-7 Lines the Saint Andrew's Cathedral, designed according to the project of the architect A. Whist, was built. This street is a real discovery for a connoisseur of the architecture. There are Three Holy Man Church (1760), famous Troekurov's house (1720-1730) and apartment house by the design of A. Geschwend (1871). Among numerous historical building there is the house of military engineer H. Meltzer (1909-1910). By the way, he became famous as architect as well. Also there are apartment house of 1906, created and constructed by architect L. Bogussky, and the former Royal pharmacy of doctor A. Pehl. Izotov apartment house, which was built in 1909-1910 by the special design of well-known architect V. Schaub, is famous as well. At some distance there is a building, in which urban primary schools were located, appeared in 1896-1897 thanks to the general architect A. Geschwend. It is not a full list of interesting constructions, which form the ensemble of 6-7 Lines of Vasilyevsky Island. You should walk around to feel the special atmosphere of this place.