

Saint Petersburg. Sights and Attractions.



The cultural capital of Russia

St. Petersburg is often called the cultural capital of Russia because the city is famous for its museums, palaces, monuments and theatres. The Alexandrinski Drama Theatre, the Bolshoi Drama Theatre, the Mariinsky Theatre of Opera and Ballet are pearls of Russian art.



Aurora

A former Russian naval ship that has played an important part in the country's history, the cruiser Aurora is now a museum ship. The cruiser Aurora was built between 1897 and 1900 at the Admiralty Shipyard in St. Petersburg. It was one of three Pallada-class cruisers, all of which served during the Russo-Japanese War. It is now a museum ship in St. Petersburg.



Saint Petersburg was founded in 1703 by Tsar Peter the Great

Saint Petersburg was founded in 1703 by Tsar Peter the Great. During the following two centuries, when Saint Petersburg was the capital of Russia, the city quickly developed into one of the world's most magnificent cities thanks to the construction of impressive edifices such as the Winter Palace, the Admiralty, the Mariinsky Theater and St. Isaac's Cathedral



The State Hermitage Museum

The State Hermitage Museum is one of the largest and oldest museums in the world and an absolute must-see for any visitor to St. Petersburg. The museum was founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great, empress of Russia, and opened to the public in 1852.



The Russian Museum

St. Petersburg's Russian Museum was established in the late nineteenth century by Emperor Nicholas II as the first state museum of Russian fine art. Most of its vast collection is displayed in the Mikhailovsky Palace.



Peterhof

Peterhof was built in the early eighteenth century by tsar Peter the Great as a magnificent palace and park complex meant to rival France's [Versailles](#). On an estate that covers more than six hundred hectares, Peter and his successors built some thirty palaces and pavilions in a mesmerizing display of wealth and power.



Bronze Horseman

The equestrian statue of Peter the Great, known as the Bronze Horseman, is a tribute to the founder of St. Petersburg. The fascinating monument is one of the most famous symbols of the city.



The Admiralty

One of St. Petersburg's oldest structures, the Admiralty was created by Peter the Great and originally built as a dockyard. The building long housed the Admiralty Board, which was responsible for shipbuilding and later became part of the ministry of the Navy.



The Mariinsky Theatre

The site of many major musical premieres, the nineteenth-century Mariinsky Theatre was St. Petersburg's answer to Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre. To this day it remains the preeminent classical opera and ballet venue in St. Petersburg.



Statue on the Anichkov Bridge



The Kunstammer

Established in 1718 by Peter the Great, the Kunstammer was the first museum established in Russia. Facing the Winter Palace, it is home to the Peter the Great Museum of Anthropology and Ethnology.



Cathedral of St. Catherine

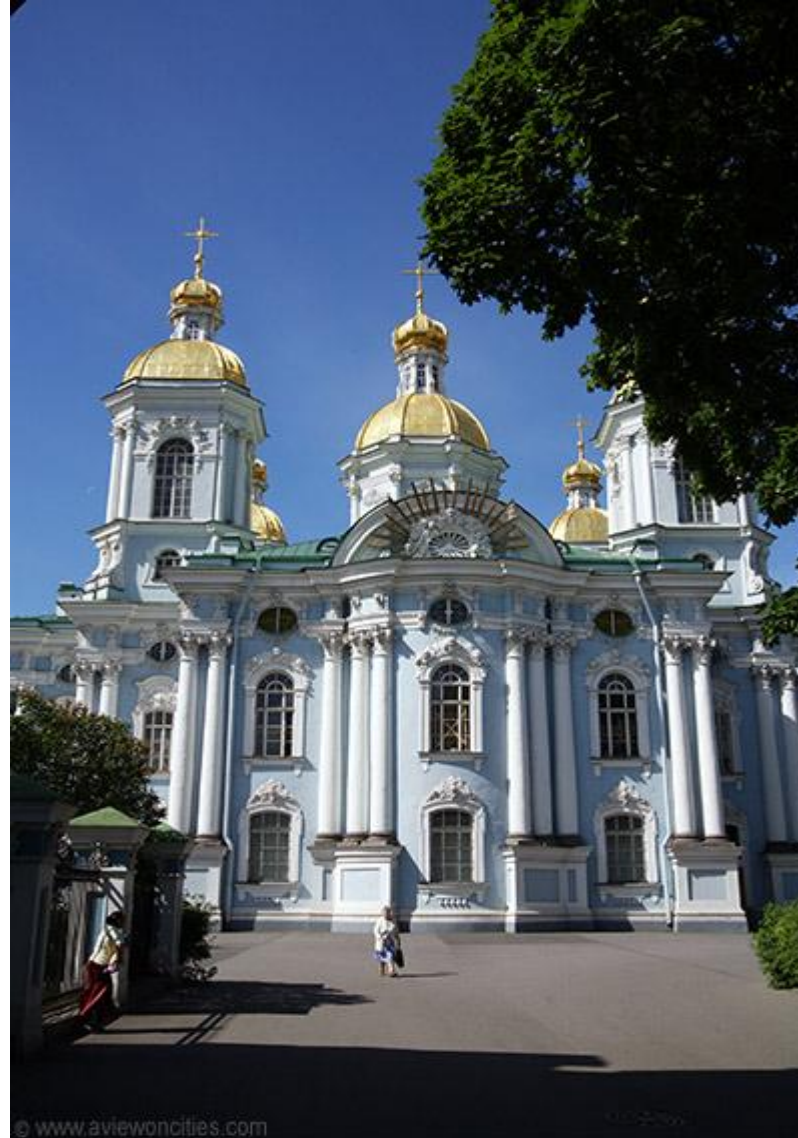


St. Peterburg's Palace Square

St. Peterburg's Palace Square is an enormous square in the heart of the historic city. It is an architectural showcase, surrounded by monumental buildings such as the Winter Palace and General Staff Building.



St. Nicholas Cathedral



Statue of Catherine the Great



Lions Bridge



In 1703, shortly after founding St. Petersburg, Peter the great had a modest lodge cabin built for him. The small cabin, with only a couple of rooms, was built in just three days.



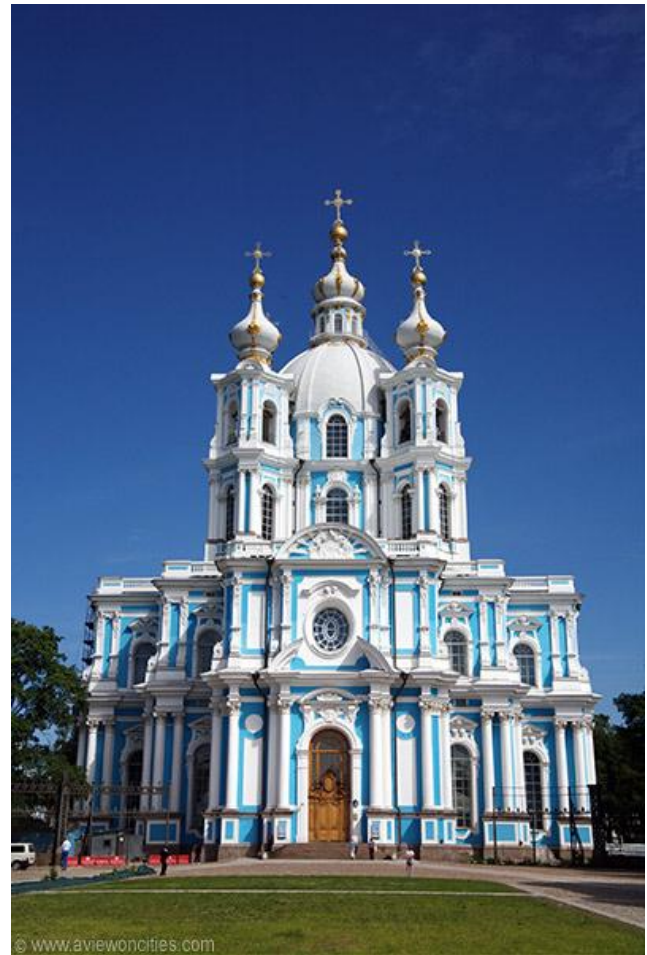
Summer Garden

- In St. Petersburg there are a lot of parks and gardens where citizens spend their free time. The Summer Garden is the oldest and most fascinating park. Rare trees, bushes and flowers grow there. Beautiful marble statues made by Italian sculptors and a famous cast iron fence decorate the Summer Garden



The Smolny Monastery

The interesting blue color of the Smolny Monastery makes it easily recognizable. At the center of the complex is the striking Cathedral of the Resurrection, a St. Petersburg landmark.



The Peter and Paul Cathedral

The Peter and Paul Cathedral is an early eighteenth-century cathedral with a lavish Baroque interior. Peter the Great and most of the tsars after him were buried here.



The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood

The magnificent Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood is one of St. Petersburg's most memorable landmarks. The church, built at the end of the nineteenth century, is constructed in a classical Russian style decorated with colorful domes and glazed tiles.



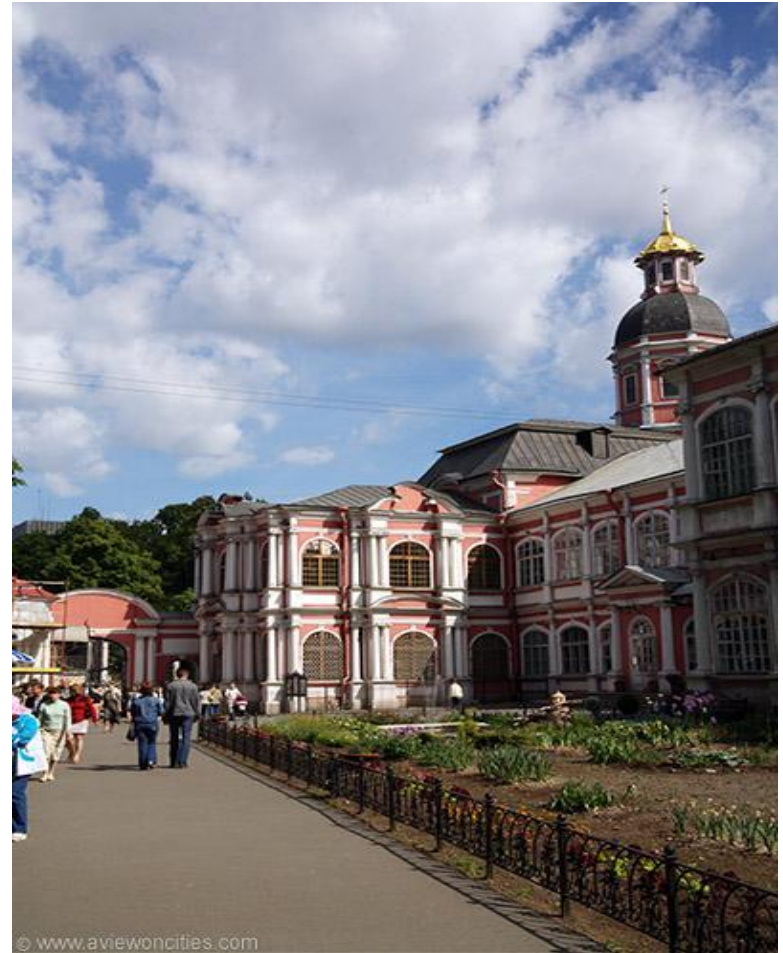
St. Isaac's Cathedral

St. Isaac's Cathedral is a colossal domed cathedral built in the nineteenth century after a design by August Montferrand. Its magnificent dome, one of the city's most famous symbols, is visible from kilometers away.



The Alexander Nevsky Monastery

One of St. Petersburg's most visited attractions, the Alexander Nevsky Monastery complex was once home to more than a dozen Russian Orthodox churches. Many famous Russians are buried at the cemeteries of the complex.



Kazan Cathedral



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