

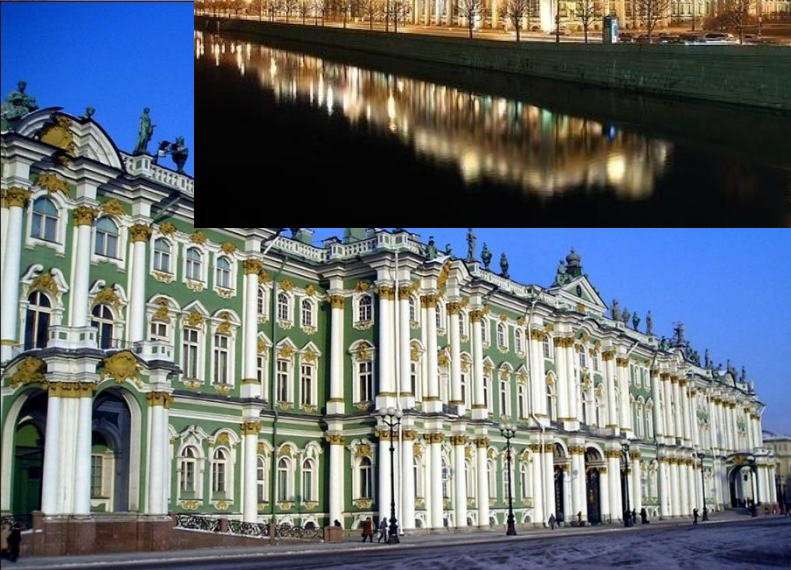
Excursion around the museums

- the Hermitage Museum



museums

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- The collection of the State Hermitage includes more than three million works of art and artefacts of the world culture. Among them are paintings, graphic works, sculptures and works of applied art, archaeological finds and numismatic material.



Rembrandt

15 July 1606 – 4 October 1669

- Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn was a Dutch painter and etcher.
- His etchings and paintings were popular throughout his lifetime, his reputation as an artist remained high, and for 20 years he taught many important Dutch painters.
- Rembrandt's greatest creative triumphs are exemplified especially in his portraits of his contemporaries, self-portraits and illustrations of scenes from the Bible. His self-portraits form a unique and intimate biography, in which the artist surveyed himself without vanity and with the sincerity.
- In his paintings and prints he also exhibited knowledge of classical iconography.



Danaë 1636

Completed in 1636, “Danaë” depicts the mythological character of the same name, who is famous for becoming the mother of Greek hero Perseus after being impregnated by Zeus in the form of a shower of gold. Rembrandt painted Danaë reclining on her bed, nude, with her arms outstretched to welcome Zeus.



Vandalism

- On June 15, 1985 Rembrandt's painting was attacked by a man later judged insane; he threw sulfuric acid on the canvas and cut it twice with his knife. The entire central part of the composition was turned into a mixture of spots with a conglomerate of splashes and areas of dripping paint. The worst damage was to the face and hair of Danaë, her right arm, and legs.
- The process of restoring the painting began the same day. Following consultations with chemists, art restorers began washing the surface of the painting with water; they kept the painting in the vertical position, and sprayed water at the painting to prevent further degradation of the painting.
- The restoration of the painting was accomplished between 1985 and 1997 by staff of the State Hermitage's Laboratory of Expert Restoration of Easel Paintings: Ye. N. Gerasimov (group leader), A. G. Rakhman, and G. A. Shirokov, with the participation of T. P. Alioshina in matters of scientific methodology.



