

St. Petersburg, Russia

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*Few cities can offer so many stunning attractions
and intriguing moods as St. Petersburg – City of the Tsars.*

A city of infinite charm with its majestic palaces, churches and cathedrals, river embankments, beautiful parks and innumerable bridges has a relatively short but outstanding history. For almost 200 years it was the capital of the Russian Empire. No longer a capital city now it still preserves its imperial grandeur.

The city was planned and built with the help of leading architects from all over the world, and the result is an eclectic blend of European and traditional Russian styles.

One huge palace after another, imposing architectural ensembles and austere granite embankments bear testimony to a magnificent kingly past of the city.

St. Petersburg combines its fascinating Russian heritage with a distinctly European outlook. Considered the cultural heart of modern day Russia, St. Petersburg is rapidly regaining its reputation as one of the Great Cities of Europe. There are many reasons to visit St. Petersburg, a city filled with cultural, historical and architectural treasures, and the people are hospitable and generous, doing their utmost to make visitors feel welcome.





Escape Travel Ltd. is a private travel company founded in 1992. It was one of the pioneers of incoming tourism after a new post-communist society was formed.

The company has developed diverse and creative programmes for high-end individual and group travel to St. Petersburg, Moscow and the rest of Russia and gained a reputation of reliable and trustworthy agent.

Since 1995 the emphasis has been made on servicing educational groups, non-profit and museum associations, alumni groups mostly from USA. At the same time the company has got much experience in arranging programmes for incentives, conferences and meetings.

The goal of the company is to tailor highly creative programmes to meet each client's objective and budget. We guarantee personal approach and our ultimate attention to every detail.

It certainly matters who your travel partner is...

Escape makes a big difference when it comes to Russia.





*ASTORIA HOTEL ******
The Leading Hotels of The World

The Astoria, built in 1912 after the project of Russian architect Lidvall, is one of the most known and prominent hotels of St. Petersburg which combines traditional character with the sophistication of an international luxury hotel. During its long years of service many prominent and outstanding people stayed here. Ideally located in the very heart of St. Petersburg, next to the St. Isaac's Cathedral and the Mariinsky Palace it is in a walking distance to the world famous Hermitage museum, close to the main attractions and shopping area.

As a part of the Rocco Forte Hotels and a member of the Leading Hotels of the World the Astoria finished comprehensive refurbishment program in 2002. Astoria has 223 rooms designed in a graceful blend of Russian antiques and contemporary pieces. All rooms have wooden parquet flooring, Russian linen and fabrics, new comfortable furniture, built-in wardrobes, writing desk with Internet access.

*GRAND HOTEL EUROPE ******
The Leading Hotels of The World

The first five-star hotel in Russia, now managed by Orient Express Hotels, with traditions that go back to the year 1824. The hotel was renovated in 1991 and complete refurbishment by Orient express is expected in the end of 2006. A member of the prestigious Leading Hotels of the World, the five-story, 301-room hotel is fully comparable to Western standards of excellence.

The classic hotel has an atmosphere steeped in Tsarist traditions with its well-preserved Art Nouveau architecture and original style interior decorations. In fact, the hotel is classified as being State-protected, a building of historical and cultural significance. Its restaurants and banqueting rooms are ornately decorated with exquisite works of art. The hotel is located right in the heart of St. Petersburg - on the elegant Mikhailovskaya street connecting the main city avenue Nevsky prospect with beautiful Arts Square.





*CORINTHIA NEVSKY PALACE HOTEL ******

The Corinthia Nevsky Palace hotel, opened in 1993, is one of the first 5-star hotels of the city, the result of the renovation of two historic XIX century buildings. The hotel's main facade faces the Nevsky Prospect, St. Petersburg's principal avenue. The spacious lobby was enlarged and refurbished in 2008 in stylish contemporary design.

The hotel has 282 rooms including suites, Imperial and Beerstube restaurants, two lobby bars and inner atrium. St. Petersburg conference hall is the largest meeting facility of the hotel (196 sq.m) and there are also several smaller meeting rooms.

Landsrona and Admiralty banquet halls are available for private group meals. The hotel is close to the train station and 15 km off the Pulkovo airport. Upon renovation of two recently acquired buildings on both sides of the hotel in 2009 the hotel will have 390 rooms and unique event space for up to 700 guests.

*RADISSON SAS ROYAL HOTEL ******

The Radisson SAS Royal Hotel is a five-star hotel located in the very center of St. Petersburg. It was opened in a 4-story building in 2001 after refurbishment. The hotel building dates back to 1730. Original interiors did not survive but the unique facade has been preserved reflecting its history. The Hermitage, Russian Museum, St. Isaac's Cathedral are situated within walking distance from the hotel. Radisson SAS Royal offers to its guests 164 rooms including 17 suites.

All rooms are decorated in classical style. Standard, superior and business-class rooms and suites are available. All rooms have air conditioning, satellite and cable TV, direct-dial telephones, personal safe, mini-bar, hair-drier, trouser press, fax and PC connections. Smoke detectors, sprinkles and fire alarms are installed in all rooms.





*RENAISSANCE ST. PETERSBURG BALTIC HOTEL ******

The newest addition to Marriott International, Inc. and to the hotel family of St. Petersburg, an elegant hotel-boutique with only 102 rooms and suites was commissioned on May 11, 2004. The hotel is located on Pochtamptskaya Street, directly across St. Isaac's Cathedral, close to all historical landmarks and business centers of the city.

The décor of the lobby and public areas was designed by Antonio Del Moral. The interior of guest rooms and suites keep to the Marriott standards. Marble shiny lobby is crowned by a high glass cupola-roof. A curved marble staircase leads to the conference center on the second floor of the building. The Terrace Café with a view to St. Isaac's is open in summer. Gourmet "Canvas" restaurant and T-Lounge Bar with wide choice of cocktails and teas are located on the ground floor.

*GRAND HOTEL EMERALD ******

The postmodern building of the Grand Hotel Emerald looks fabulous from outside and its interior is a unique combination of classical style and elements of modern design. It was built in 2003 according to specially developed design and using the latest technology. The Grand Hotel Emerald is the harmonious combination of luxury elements of interior like Swarovsky crystal, natural stone, precious kinds of wood and latest achievements in the fields of security, fire resistance and communication.

The hotel is located on Suvorovsky Prospect, not far from the main avenue Nevsky Prospect and close to Moscow Railway Station. The hotel has 90 rooms. All rooms feature luxury Italian furniture, king-size or queen-size twin beds, sitting area with armchairs and coffee table by the window.





*ANGLETERRE HOTEL *****

Angleterre Hotel is one of the most historic hotels in St. Petersburg. Since the very beginning the hotel continues the Russian traditions of hospitality and combines them with the high level of service of an international hotel. Its prime location on St. Isaac's Square in the heart of historic and romantic St. Petersburg makes Angleterre the ideal place for those on business or on a visit to discover the wealth of fascinating sites and museums that St. Petersburg has to offer.

Each of the hotel's 193 bedrooms and suites was designed by art-director of The Rocco Forte Collection Olga Polizzi and decorated in a style that combines the classic with the contemporary - generous beds, parquet flooring, linens, marble bathrooms and soft colour schemes. All bedrooms are air-conditioned, with direct-dial telephones, interactive TV, minibar, electronic safe, broadband internet connection. Many rooms have views over St Isaac's Cathedral.



*HOLIDAY CLUB HOTEL *****

Holiday Club is a new five-star spa hotel belonging to Sokos hotel chain. It is located in a few steps from the Spit of Vasilievsky Island - one of the best viewpoints of the city. All 279 rooms are well proportioned and include 223 standard rooms with shower cabin, 43 Business Club rooms with bath tub and 13 suites. The rooms are elegantly decorated and fitted with TV, minibar, bath robes, iron and board, Wi-Fi internet access. Spacious spa in Roman-style has a large swimming pool, treatment area, many saunas of different type and well-equipped gym.

There are 2 restaurants – red-brick Sevilla with 220 seats and refined sea-food Portofino for 70 guests. Drinks and light food are also served in the Bridges Lobby Lounge, Eliseyev Wine Cellar and the Garden Café. The hotel is proud of spacious night music pub The Cellar featuring six bowling alleys.

The multifunctional Ball Room can seat 300 persons, there are 6 smaller meeting rooms.



*KEMPINSKI HOTEL MOIKA 22*****

The original facade of this historical 19th century building, designed by a Dutch engineer in 1853, has been faithfully retained while the building has been entirely reconstructed.

The hotel is located in a charming area, at the very heart of St. Petersburg, on the Moika River, opposite the renowned Hermitage Museum. The hotel is just two minutes walk from Nevsky Prospect, close to all major sites and shopping areas, whilst being only 40 minutes from Pulkovo airport.

The hotel has 197 rooms and suites, a bar and Beau Rivage restaurant on the ground floor, another restaurant on the roof terrace with a spectacular view over the city skyline. Two conference rooms Neva and Fontanka occupy 200 and 43 sq. m. accordingly. Large atrium 200 sq.m. Wellness centre.





SOKOS OLYMPIC GARDEN HOTEL ****

Opened in June 2008, this new 4-star conference hotel is located on Moskovsky Prospekt leading to the airport and at the same time is very close to the city centre. The hotel offers 348 beautifully designed rooms including 13 suites, 20 junior suites, 131 superior and 184 standard rooms. All rooms are equipped with latest high-tech amenities including Wi-Fi internet access. The hotel also has an underground parking for 30 cars.

A beautiful restaurant Fransmanni (250 seats) of Provencal-style food is located in the hotel. The home atmosphere of fireplace hall absolutely suites for dinners and friendly meetings. Spacious Lobby Bar offers wine, snacks and coffees.

The hotel is an excellent choice for all sorts of meetings and events. It has 13 multifunction conference rooms, the largest can seat 250 persons.

SOKOS VASILIEVSKY HOTEL ****

Sokos Hotel Vasilievsky, opened in November 2008, is a brand-new four-star hotel of the biggest hotel chain in Finland. It is located on the 8th Line of Vasilievsky Island and occupies recently refurbished XIX century building. Thanks to comfortable location the hotel can become a starting point for walking trips in St. Petersburg. The hotel has a business centre, well-equipped gym, saunas and underground parking for 30 cars.

Sokos Hotel Vasilievsky has 255 rooms including 12 suites, 19 junior suites, 35 superior and 189 standard rooms. All rooms are equipped with shower and almost all with bath. All rooms have Wi-Fi internet access and latest technical outfit.

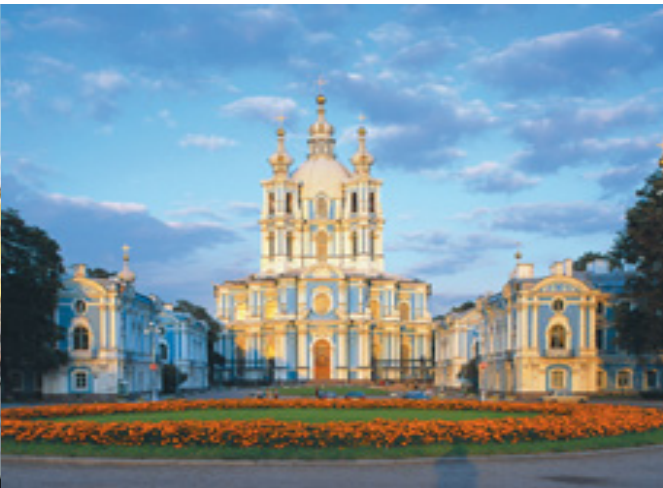
Stylish brasserie Repin has 150 seats. The hotel also has a cozy Lobby Bar, Music Pub and French wine tasting room for 30 persons. Two meeting rooms (30 persons each) are connected to the restaurant for more private dinners, breakfast meetings, etc.

HOLIDAY INN MOSKOVSKIE VOROTA ****

The Holiday Inn St. Petersburg-Moskovskiye Vorota is a new hotel and conference centre perfectly situated in the central part of the city on Moskovsky Prospekt which connects city centre with the Pulkovo airport. With Moskovskiye Vorota metro station across the road the hotel is only 4 stops from the major city attractions. The hotel has 557 rooms including 450 standard, 65 executive rooms and 36 suites. All of them are with high ceiling and large windows, equipped with latest technical amenities including high-speed internet connection. The hotel also offers health and fitness as well as spa facilities with an in-door pool.

Breakfast is served in the restaurant which can seat up to 700 guests. There are also two specialty restaurants, Theme Bar and the Lobby Bar.

The hotel has 10 transformable conference rooms with the total capacity of up to 750 guests. It boasts of the Congress Hall as well which can seat 800 guests.





AMBASSADOR ***

The hotel is a unique complex combining a modern building with an architectural gem from the 19th century. Despite the stylistic differences of the hotel's facades, the interiors are all in classical style. An atrium occupies the central part of the complex. The hotel has 236 double rooms, 12 singles, 6 suites and a luxurious presidential suite. Rooms for disabled guests. All rooms are equipped with air-conditioning, Internet access, direct dial phone lines, interactive and satellite TV, a mini bar and a safe. Underground parking for 25 cars.

Conference center located on the 9th floor includes Orion conference room (130 sq.m), Sirius and Vega break-out rooms (35 and 27 sq. m), Cigar and Banquet rooms (28 sq. m each), two-level restaurant Le Vernissage offering excellent views of the city skyline. The Ambassador restaurant on the ground floor also offers banquet and conference service for up to one hundred fifty people.



NOVOTEL CITY CENTER ***

Novotel St.Petersburg Centre is a modern project created by a famed architect's studio. It represents the architectural concept that focuses on bringing back the original spirit of Italian gardens that were the part of the city area paying homage to the decorative style of Italy while meeting the latest customers' requirements: comfort, space, volume, innovation, modernity and contemporary design. Located just a few steps from the main street of the city, the hotel is in 30 minutes walk to the Hermitage, Russian Museum, Mariinsky Theatre.

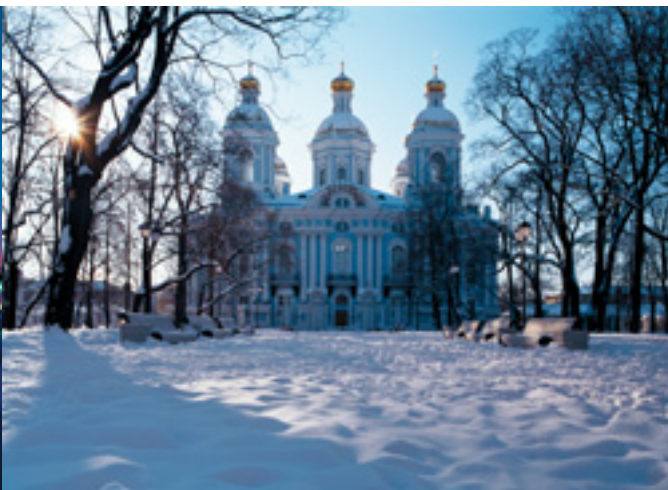
The hotel has 217 standard rooms, 14 junior suites and 2 presidential suites. Rooms for disabled guests. Non-smoking floor. Top floor rooms offer a magnificent view of the city. Seven modern meeting rooms with air-conditioning and daylight from 25 to 100 sq. m. Two modular rooms provide space for up to 90 persons each. Business Center.



COURTYARD MARRIOTT HOTEL ****

Courtyard Marriott Hotel, opened in October 2008, is located in the historic centre of St. Petersburg – Vasilevsky Island. The location of the hotel allows to reach many of the main city attractions by foot. At the same time it is a little bit off the hectic main thoroughfare – Nevsky Prospect. The hotel has 214 spacious rooms and suites offering usual Marriott comfort. There are connecting and non-smoking rooms as well as rooms for disabled. All rooms, public areas and guest corridors are equipped with smoke detectors and fire sprinklers. Fitness Centre with modern equipment is available 24 hours a day.

Stylish Pierrot restaurant (140 seats) offers dishes from Eastern France, Northern Europe and Russia, prepared by the award-winning chef. The lobby bar on the first floor serves wide variety of light snacks and drinks. The hotel has 8 conference and banqueting rooms with modern technical equipment.





PETERHOF

Peterhof located 25 km west of the city on the shore of the Gulf of Finland is the most famous summer residence of Russian Tsars. Its history begins in 1704 when a small wooden house was built for Peter I. In 1723 the house was re-built in stone to become the Grand Summer Palace, an official summer residence of the Tsars. The architectural ensemble of Peterhof includes Upper and Lower Parks with more than 170 fountains and 4 cascades as well as 5 smaller palaces.

The system of fountains was built in 1722. The intricate system of pipes stretches for nearly 22 km. The water flows downhill by force of gravity while the fountains operate according to the principle of communicating vessels. In both artistry and engineering the fountains of Peterhof are truly unique. Fountains are operated from mid-May to mid-October, during the same period there is a hydrofoil connection between the city and Peterhof.



PUSHKIN

Catherine's Palace is located 25 km south of St. Petersburg in the town of Pushkin originally called Tsarskoye Selo. It was named after Peter the Great's wife Catherine I and gained a truly regal appearance in 1752.

The summer residence of Russian Tsars, often called a pearl of the Russian Baroque, this place was loved by Elizabeth I, Catherine the Great, Alexander I and especially by Nicholas II, the last Russian monarch.

The palace, a combination of blue, white and gold, looks magnificent. A huge breath-taking ballroom called the Throne Hall, the famous Amber Room, ornately decorated drawing and dining rooms leave unforgettable impressions.

Surrounding the palace is a park covering more than 570 hectares with bridges, terraces, fountains and small galleries.



PAVLOVSK

Located next to Pushkin, Pavlovsk was founded in 1777 when a small palace for the heir to the Russian Throne was built. A large horseshoe-shaped Paul's Palace was completed in 1786 and renovated in 1803 during the reign of Paul's son - Alexander I.

This palace is often called a pearl of the classical style as many famous architects of the time took part in designing its beautiful interiors. It is famed for the extreme luxury of the State Rooms which is a synthesis of architecture, decorative painting and sculpture. The ground floor houses cozy and elegant private rooms of the Russian Tsars.

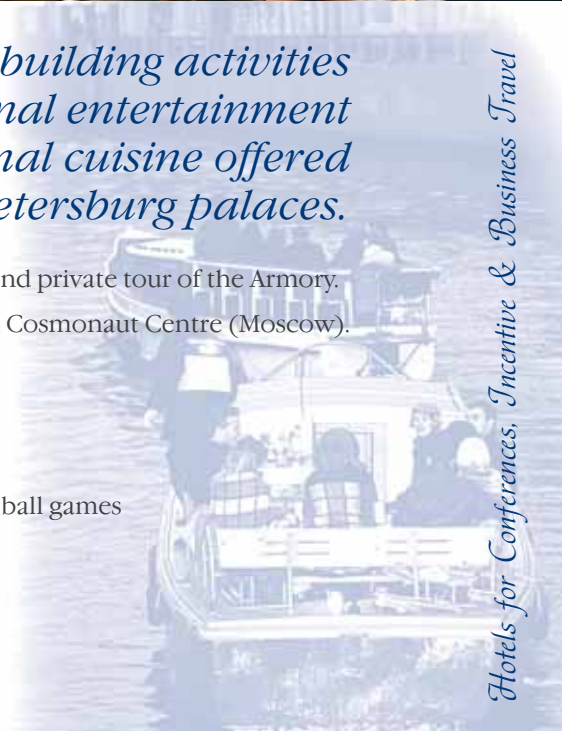
A beautiful landscape park, the largest in Europe, surrounds the palace. By the order of the Empress a beautiful Rose Pavilion with a spacious ballroom was built in the park in 1812.





Escape Travel Ltd. presents a wide choice of cultural and team-building activities in combination with carefully selected, highly professional entertainment of any kind as well as the best of Russian and international cuisine offered in the luxury of St. Petersburg palaces.

- ✦ Private visits to the Hermitage Museum out of official hours.
- ✦ Special visits to Hermitage Brilliant and Gold rooms with Faberge works and Scythian gold.
- ✦ Cocktail parties and gala dinners at unique locations.
- ✦ Comprehensive tours of art-museums led by museum curators.
- ✦ Private chartered boat trips along the canals and Neva River.
- ✦ Early entry to the Tsars' palaces in Pushkin and Peterhof.
- ✦ Backstage visits to the Mariinsky Theatre (formerly Kirov).
- ✦ Visit to a Russian family.
- ✦ Weekend in Moscow: Visit to Moscow Kremlin and private tour of the Armory.
- ✦ MIG-29 flights and visit to the Star City - Russian Cosmonaut Centre (Moscow).
- ✦ Matryoshka-doll painting master-class.
- ✦ Pelmeni cooking class.
- ✦ Ice-fishing.
- ✦ Russian Winter Festival: traditional winter snow ball games
- ✦ A day in the Russian Army.
- ✦ Kalashnikov shooting.
- ✦ Russian roulette: vodka & caviar tasting.



Hotels for Conferences, Incentive & Business Travel





St. Petersburg

Founded on May 27, 1703 by Peter the Great. Capital of Russian Empire 1721-1918. Largest industrial center of Russia in the XIX century. City where October Revolution broke out in 1917. Nowadays it is the second largest city of Russia considered to be a cultural capital.

Population

As of January 1, 2005 there are more than 4.5 million people what makes approximately 3% of the Russian population.

Time

St. Petersburg belongs to the Moscow standard time zone (MST), which differs from the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), GMT + 4 hours in summer and GMT + 3 hours in winter.

Location

St. Petersburg is the northernmost major city of the world. The city is situated in the North-West of Russia in the Neva River delta on the Eastern coast of the Gulf of Finland and the territory of 1439 square kilometers. The city is located on 44 islands formed by the Neva River and 90 more rivers and canals. The abundance of islands has led to the construction of multiple bridges. Of these, nowadays there are 308 within the city proper and 534 if suburbs are included. The total length of all the bridges is about 16 kilometers.

Weather and climate

Due to the city's northern position it enjoys the phenomenon of the "White Nights" lasting from May 25-26 till July 16-17. The climate is humid, close to maritime with a moderately warm summer and a rather long moderately cold winter. The average winter temperature is -8°C , the average summer temperature is $+17^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Neighbouring countries

Sweden, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark

Access to St. Petersburg

There are regular direct air flights to St. Petersburg from many European cities such as Amsterdam, Berlin, Budapest, Copenhagen, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hannover, Helsinki, London, Larnaka, Manchester, Milan, Munich, Paris, Prague, Riga, Stockholm, Tel-Aviv, Vienna, Warsaw. The city is advantageously located at the sea routes and land roads. There are afternoon and overnight trains from Moscow offering open car seating and sleeping compartments. Time of travel is approximately 5 and 8 hours accordingly.

Morning and afternoon trains from Helsinki. Motorways to Finland and Scandinavia, to Baltic countries, to Moscow and south of Russia, to Murmansk and north of Russia. St. Petersburg is a major port of call in the region for international and river cruise ships.

Geographical areas covered by Escape Travel services

St. Petersburg and its environs, ancient small towns of Novgorod and Pskov, Moscow and the towns of the famous Golden Ring. North of Russia: Petrozavodsk and Arkhangelsk, Valaam, Kizhi and Solovki Islands (GULAG).

Visas

Russian visas are required to enter Russia. Please contact your nearest Russian Consular office to find out how to obtain Russian visa. Escape Travel will provide you with visa support letter and hotel voucher.

Money

The national Russian currency is Rouble. One Rouble is equal to 100 kopecks. At the present time, there are the following money in circulation: coins of 1, 5, 10, 50 kopecks; coins of 1, 2, 5, 10 Roubles; notes of 10, 50, 100, 500, 1000 Roubles issued in 1997.

Banks

45 banks currently operate in St. Petersburg, including two foreign ones, providing the wide range of banking services. Most of the banks are open to clients from 9.00 to 13.00. Currency exchange offices are usually open from 10.00 to 20.00. Large hotels provide 24-hours banking services.

Welcome to St. Petersburg!



St. Petersburg, Russia

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