







Peter's the Great Petersburg

This route will show you the places and sights, which are connected with the personality of the founder of St. Petersburg and one of the great rulers in the history of Russia – Peter the Great. He put his heart and soul, even his own life into this city, and made it one of the most beautiful cities in the world.



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.

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.

Twelve Collegia building



Universitetskaya Naberezhnaya, 7/9
 Vasileostrovskaya
 59.941594,30.299304

0 ч. 15 мин.

The Twelve Collegia building or Twelve Colleges on the Vasilyevsky Island is the architectural monument of the Petrine Baroque style. The Twelve Collegia building is one of the earliest ones on the Vasilyesky Island.

Additional information:

It is possible to enjoy the architectural image of this object twenty-four-hour.

R The city in architecture and monuments

The building was constructed in 1722-1742 by the original design of architect D. Trezzini and later by T. Schwertfeger and M. Zemtsov. The building was meant for the placement of Senate, Synod and the colleges – supreme bodies of government, which were established by Peter the Great in 1718. The Twelve Collegia is twelve three-storey buildings of the same size and architectural style, which are connected together. In the XVIII century each building had its own entrance. The architecture of the edifices is quite symbolic: it reflects the independence of each college and at the same time accentuates their correlation in the solution of state problems. In different times in the building of the Twelve Collegia there were supreme bodies of government, the State Pedagogical Institute and Saint-Petersburg State University. Nowadays the Twelve Collegia is still the main building of Saint-Petersburg State University. There are the science library and some administrative services of the university. In the building there is Peterovsky Hall, where different events are held as well as regular concerts for public.

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.

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. 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.

Peter and Paul Fortress



- Hare Island, Peter and Paul Fortress
- Gor'kovskaya
- 59.951271,30.321769

- +7(812)230-64-31
- www.spbmuseum.ru/en/themuseum/
- 1 ч.

Peter and Paul fortress – is the first class fortified structure of the XVIII century, one of the main sights in Saint-Petersburg. Peter and Paul cathedral, which is located on the territory of the fortress – is one of the main symbols of the city, necropolis of the Royal Romanov Family. Here you will find the fascinating walking route “Nevskaya Panorama”, famous prison of the Trubetskoy Bastion, different museums, exhibitions, midday shot from the walls of the Peter and Paul Fortress.

Admission fee

Entrance ticket in Peter and Paul Cathedral and Grand Ducal Burial Chapel: for adults - 450 RUR, for school children and students - 250 RUR.

L The most well-known sights - Must see!

Peter and Paul Fortress is one of the main sights of Saint-Petersburg. This structure represents the work of the great military engineers with the group of buildings, among which there is the Peter and Paul cathedral – not only the highest architectural monument (122.5 meters) and the third highest building in the city, but also one of the most popular symbols of the city.

L Military and political history

Peter and Paul Fortress from the day of its foundation was used as the main prison for political criminals in Russia and never had to do with military actions. One of the bright examples of the political prisons from 1872 till 1921 was the prison of the Trubetskoy bastion by the engineers K. P. Andreev and M. A. Pasipkin, which was constructed in 1870-1872 and became the central jail for the people, accused of state and legal criminal acts. Prisoners were kept in really stringent atrocious conditions without any contacts with the outside world (meeting were forbidden as well as correspondence and even communication with other prisoners), also, smoking was prohibited and reading of books (the Bible was the only exception). Such atmosphere inside the prison often led to the uprisings of the accused. Originally, the structure provided for 73 single cells, but from 1878 its number was reduced to 69. For the period of its functioning there were more than 1500 people: from 1870 till 1880 there were revolutionists P. A. Kropotkin, G. A. Lopatin, V. N. Figner, A. I. Zhelyabov, N. A. Morozov and the older brother of Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov-Lenin – Alexander, from 1890 in its cells there were A. S. Shapovalov, P. N. Lepeshinsky, M. A. Olmsky, N. A. Bauman; during 1905-1907 the writer Maxim Gorkiy and other opponent of the further bloodshed became the accused; also the prisoners were the participants of the Petersburg Soviet of workers' deputies L. D. Trotskiy, A. L. Parvus, members of the socialist party B. V. Savinkov, E. K. Breshko-Breshkovskaya, S. V. Balmashev, V. M. Chernov. After the February 1917 the government Ministers at the Royal personage, the leaders of the political investigation Department were brought to the jail. And in the October 1917 there were members of the Provisional Government and military rebellion, the activists of the cadet party and other discontented with the power of the Bolshevik's party. The isolated custodial system was only for several accused, for the others there were the mass cells. The official closing of the prison was in 1918, but several prisoners were there till 1921. Since 1924 this place became the real evidence of the cruelty of the old days. Now in the museum you can see the archive materials, photos, videos, audio files of the memories of the prisoners, the halls and cells, which were preserved up to our days.

L The city in architecture and monuments

The Peter and Paul Fortress was laid on the 16th of 1703 on the Zayachy Island by the decree of Peter I, who created its construction plan together with the French engineer Joseph-Gaspard Lambert de Guerin. In the project of the fortress there are six bastions (Gosudarev, Narishkin, Menshikov, Zotov, Trubetskoy, Golovkin), connected together with the curtain walls (Vasilievskaya, Ekaterininskaya, Kronverkskaya, Nevskaya, Nikolskaya, Petrovskaya) and two ravelins (Alekseevsky and Ioannovsky). Ioannovsky bridge connected Zayachiy Island and Petrogradskaya side in 1703. The most important construction on the territory of the Peter and Paul fortress is the Peter and Paul cathedral, which was erected here in 1712-1713. A lot of masters took part in the construction and repairing process of the cathedral after the war: the lead architect - Italian D. Trezzini, the spire of the cathedral was made by Harmen van Bol'es, gilded covered iconostasis - by I. P. Zarudniy, stucco décor - by C. Rossi and A. Quadri, the paintings - by G. Gzel and V. Yaroshevsky, the chiming clock - by B. Oort Krase, bronze Tsar's gates - by A. I. Karau and many others. Since the reign of Peter the Great the cathedral became the burial place for the members of the Royal Family. Among the buildings of the Peter Paul cathedral there are also Grand Ducal Burial Vault, the Mint, the Boat house, The Commandant's house, the Carriage room, the prison, the Crownwork, Engineer's house and other. The tradition to celebrate something by the shut out of a cannon from the Narishkin Bastion formed only in 1730s, later the salvos signified the beginning and the end of the day. However, this tradition became the daily one only since 1973. In 1934 it was decided to stop the salvos, but since 1957 it was revived. In the XIX century from the 11 a.m. till 12 a.m. wonderful music of the orchestra was heard from the Peter and Paul fortress. During the October Revolution 1917 the garrison of the Peter and Paul fortress supported the Bolsheviks, who took up arms against the Provisional Government. And during the storm of the Winter Palace, the weapon blank shots were made from the Peter and Paul fortress. Nowadays, the Peter and Paul fortress - is the part of the State museum of the History of Saint-Petersburg.

L Captivating views

While you walk along the upper platform of the Nevskaya curtain wall (also known as "Nevskaya Panorama") from Gosudarev to Narishkin bastions, the wonderful view over the heart of the city opens right in front of you: Palace embankment, Spit of the Vasilievsky Island, Trinity and Palace bridges, the Admiralty and the Saint Isaac's Cathedral. From the roof of the fortress wall you can enjoy the group of the buildings of the Peter and Paul Fortress, see the Memorial sign on the Gosudarev bastion, which marks the beginning of the construction of Saint-Petersburg, to observe the upper walls of the Flag tower with the flagstaff mast and 14 meter jack on its top. Daily at midday you can witness the ritual of the symbolical midday shot.

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, Lanskoy 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.