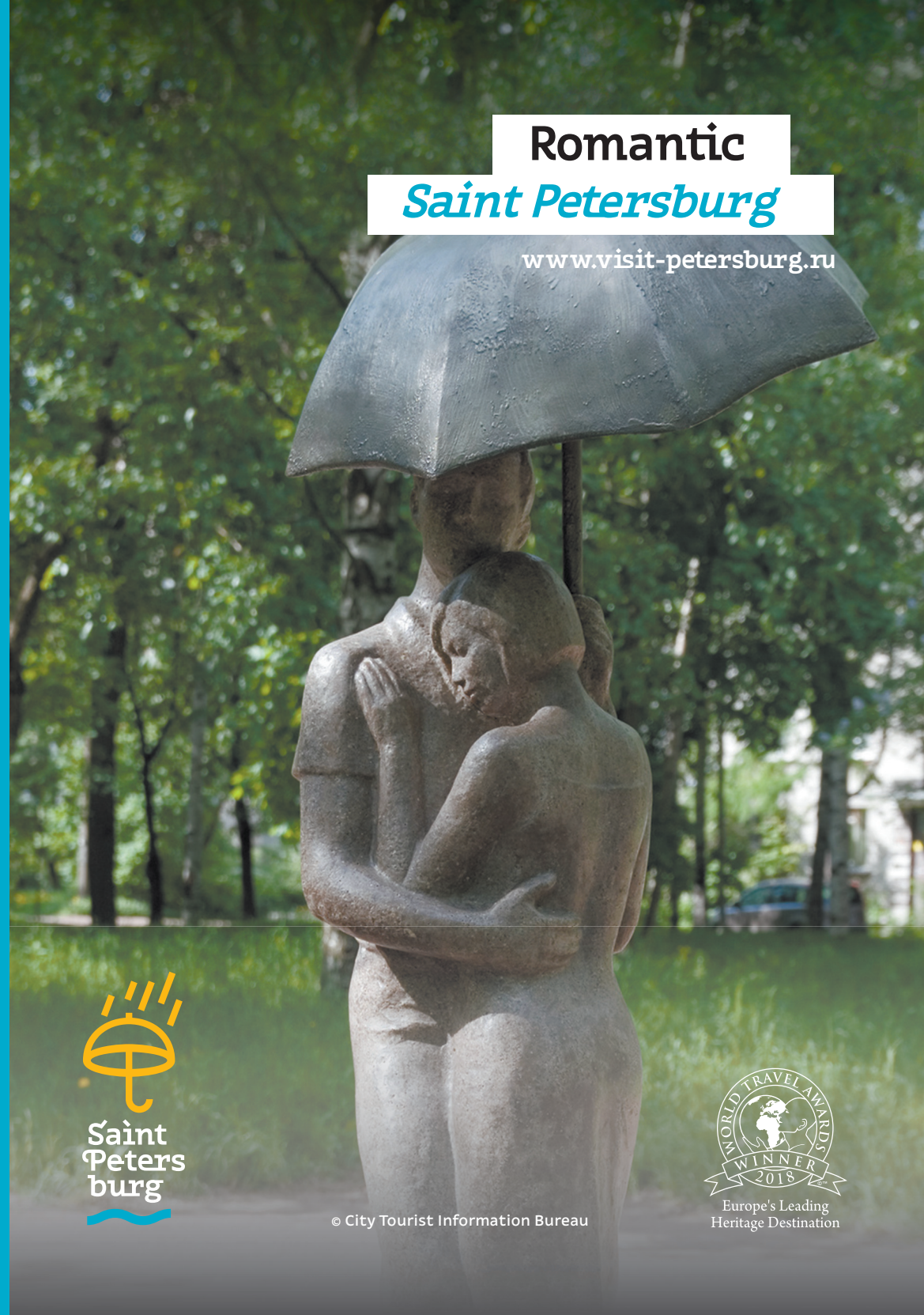


Romantic *Saint Petersburg*

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FROM ST. PETERSBURG WITH LOVE

St. Petersburg is a city where a great number of important events in the history of the country have happened over three centuries: government reforms, coups, intrigues, twists and turns of ordinary people's fates, the most important scientific discoveries and inventions. Houses, gardens, cobbled streets, parks, embankments — all these keep the memory of the past centuries. St. Petersburg's true beauty is captured in music, paintings and stone. How many fates intertwined here, how many meetings and breakups this city witnessed, how many enthusiastic memories and vibrant feelings it originated!



Undoubtedly, St. Petersburg is a city with a special fate and unique atmosphere, that won't leave even the most pragmatic people indifferent. The beauty of these streets, canals, bridges, embankments, parks with graceful sculptures, houses with fanciful figures of telamons and caryatides, and elegant columns can melt even the iciest of hearts. The unhurried waterflow of the rivers and canals, framed by picturesque embankments, where every house is a living history and somebody's memory, enchants everyone. Many people found their happiness in St. Petersburg.

This city has inspired and excited many writers and directors. They surely wanted to tell other people about it, and each of them has managed to do it differently. Some praised it, others, on the contrary, disliked it, but one thing is true for all: this place sank deep into their minds. The city streets, palaces, mansions, gardens and parks of St. Petersburg served as a setting for all these real or fictional stories.

St. Petersburg has won recognition from the modern travellers as well. For instance, according to the Russian tourist portal Travel.ru the Northern Capital is the best city for a romantic trip, and the American magazine Travel + Leisure included the city in their top 50 of the most romantic places in the world.

You are in love with each other, but still have not managed to get to know this city? Are you looking for a place with a particularly exciting and inspiring atmosphere? You will definitely discover your own, intimate Petersburg, and we are going to offer you a few ideas for a romantic walk.



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Information
Bureau



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Romantic Appeal of the White Nights



Even nature itself contributes to the romantic atmosphere of St. Petersburg. In mid-June comes the season of the “white nights” (which ends in July) when the night becomes as bright as day. At this time, there is a truly fascinating and exciting event happening in the city — the opening of the bridges.

The short story “White Nights” by Fyodor Dostoyevsky especially exquisitely conveys the atmosphere of the city during this short period of time. This story lacks emotional intensity and passion, but those hours that the characters spend together strolling through the streets and embankments of Petersburg, are filled with tenderness and romance.

There is something inexpressibly touching in nature round Petersburg... Somehow I cannot help being reminded of a frail, consumptive girl, at whom one sometimes looks with compassion, sometimes with sympathetic love, whom sometimes one simply does not notice; though suddenly in one instant she becomes, as though by chance, inexplicably lovely and exquisite, and, impressed and intoxicated, one cannot help asking oneself what power made those sad, pensive eyes flash with such fire?

F. M. Dostoyevsky, “White Nights”
(translated by Constance Garnett, 1918)

ALONG THE EMBANKMENTS AND OVER THE BRIDGES

Kolomna

Special romance permeates Kolomna District — the oldest part of Saint Petersburg enclosed between the Fontanka River, Kryukov Canal, the Moyka River, Novo-Admiralteysky Canal and the Neva River. Away from bustling city centre and not so popular among tourists, it is especially attractive for lovers who want to enjoy the company of each other. N.V. Gogol wrote: “Here is everything not like in other parts of St. Petersburg; it’s neither the capital nor the province... The future doesn’t come here, everything is silence and resignation here...” A. S. Pushkin (“Little House in Kolomna”, “The Bronze Horseman”) and F. M. Dostoyevsky (“White nights”) settled down the heroes of their works exactly on the streets of Kolomna. Here you can stroll around the streets from paintings by miriskusnik M. V. Dobuzhinsky, walk along the rivers and canals, take a look at Semimostye. It is the place at the junction of Griboedov Canal and Kryukov Canal, where standing on Pikalova Bridge across Griboyedov Canal, you can see seven bridges. The tender blue St. Nicholas Naval Cathedral looks enigmatically against the sunset sky. Next to the apartment of Alexander Blok on ul. Dekabristov you can feel yourself a hero of the famous poem “Night. Street. Lantern. Pharmacy.”



Fair Lady of Alexander Blok



The future poet and the daughter of the great chemist met at a very young age: he was 17 years old and she was 16. Their wedding took place a year after they had met. Alexander met Lubov after her courses on 32, ul. Gagarinskaya, and they spent evenings walking. Blok found his ideal of Fair Lady and embodiment of femininity in his wife. He strongly supported this cult among his creative environment. They lived on 3, ul. Lahtina for two years and he wrote the poem called "Stranger" there. However, their relationship wasn't exemplary. In fact, both of them had relationships outside of marriage. Up to the passing of the poet in 1921 the couple lived on 57, ul. Dekabristov. He died in Mendeleeva's arms, which he called "a holy place in my heart".

*How young and how precious her innocence was,
Her beauty as pure as Madonna's,
Like glistening river that silently flows...
My heart was tormented in sorrows.
It seemed she was careless and free like the wild,
A swan that no ruefulness knows.
Who'd tell me what sadness she carried inside...
My heart was tormented in sorrows!...*

(A. Blok)

Semimostye



At the junction of Kryukov Canal and Griboedov Canal there is a place where you can see seven bridges at once — the famous Semimostye (The Seven Bridges View). Stand on Pikalova bridge so that St. Nicholas Naval Cathedral appeared to the left. In front of you will be Krasnogvardeysky bridge, and behind the one — Novo-Nikolsky bridge. Turn clockwise and you will see Staro-Nikolsky bridge. Further along the Kryukov Canal is visible Smezhny bridge. Turn a little more and get a sight of Mogilevsky bridge. Then turn once again towards Kryukov Canal and see Kashin bridge, in the distance behind him — Torgovy bridge.

Hermitage Bridge

Hermitage bridge is the oldest stone bridge of St. Petersburg. It is located near the Winter Palace and connects the Neva River and the Moyka River. In the times of the reign of Catherine the Great her maids of honor had dates with their partners here. The bridge was called "Lisa's bridge" after the episode of opera "The Queen of Spades" by P. I. Chaykovsky, in which Lisa dived off Hermitage bridge. There is a belief that unrequited love will become mutual if come with thoughts of the beloved to the Hermitage bridge and throw in the groove a few coins.

Ivan Turgenev and Pauline Viardot

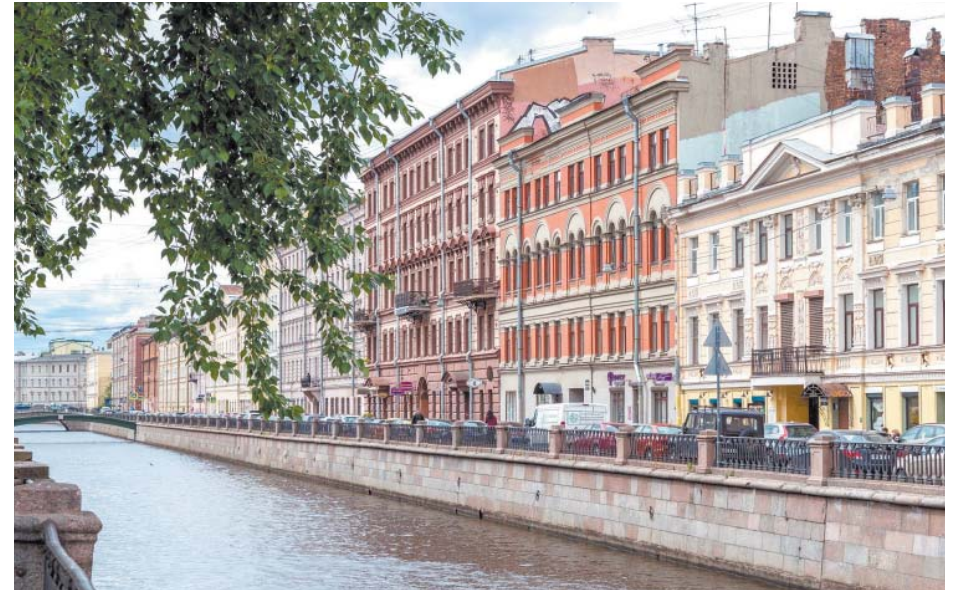


The history of relations between Ivan Turgenev and Pauline Viardot is closely connected with St. Petersburg. For the first time they met in 1843 in the house of the poet and teacher of literature major A. Komarov. Pauline came to St. Petersburg as one of the participants of the opera "The Barber of Seville". Viardot took part in various musical evenings, which were held in the Winter Palace. Ivan Sergeevich Turgenev was a permanent guest at her performances. He loved Paulina with all his heart and was in constant communion with her, against the wishes of her husband and mother who were against this love. He was inspired by her, trusted her all his secrets, she was the first reader of his manuscripts. When Pauline was in Petersburg, she lived in the apartment house on 64, Nevsky pr. and Ivan Turgenev spent all his free time with her family.

I love family, married life, but I was not destined to create my own family, and I became part of another family.

(I. S. Turgenev)

Promenade of Love



The embankment along the Griboyedov Canal is probably one of the most picturesque in the city. Building in the territory began first in the middle of the 18th century and mainly on the right bank. In the middle of the 19th century the area, located nearby 93, nab. kanala Griboyedova, where at that moment was the Theatre School (later — College), was known as "Promenade of love". At that time courting the girls of this school was the fashion, and has not yet formed an opinion about thoughtlessness of such pursuits. Young men were in love with young actress and sought meetings with them in the theatre and on the way to rehearsals — gifts, sweets, fruit were thrown in the coaches. Neither scenes with school dames, nor their threats, nor even the "Supreme order" of Grand Duke Mikhail Pavlovich about the arrest of those who persecuted schoolgirls, had not the power. The students of the Theatre school were ballerinas A. I. Istomina and E. A. Telesheva, actresses E. Semenova and A. Kolosova. The celebrities such as M. Lermontov, A. A. Stolypin and the A. S. Pushkin were seen among the admirers. A graduate of the Theatre School was ballerina Matilda Kshesinskaya — the great love of the Emperor Nicholas II.

Nicholas II and Matilda Kshesinskaya



The love story between Matilda Kshesinskaya — ballet dancer of the Imperial Theatre and the heir of the Russian throne — the future Emperor Nicholas II began in St. Petersburg. They first met in 1890 at a dinner after ballerina's graduation performance at the Imperial Theater School (93, nab. kanala Griboyedova), and almost immediately began an affair. Nicholas visited almost all of ballerina's performances at Mariinsky Theatre. He even purchased a house No 18 on Angliysky prospekt for her. In her first season she performed on the stage of the Krasnoselsky Theater, which was burned during the Great Patriotic War. In Krasnoe Selo the household troops were quartered and in one of these troops Nicholas did his military service. In 1894, their romance ended, as everyone became aware of the Emperor's engagement. Nevertheless, this novel has become one of the most exciting love stories of the 19th century.

*He recognized me, turned
and took a long look after me.
Such a spontaneous
and happy encounter to me!*

(From the memoirs of M. Kshesinskaya)

The Spit of Vasilyevsky Island



The newlyweds come to the Spit of Vasilyevsky Island on their wedding day to release a pair of white doves and drink a glass of champagne for a new happy life. Here you can feel the breadth of the Neva River, admire the meteors sailing off to Peterhof and boats cruising along the canal of Neva. Here, in the heart of St. Petersburg, surrounded by all this beauty, you can share with each other the most important.

Potseluev Bridge

Potseluev Bridge (literally Bridge of Kisses) is one of the most iconic places of St. Petersburg bearing a curious name. The legend has it that the bridge was named after the merchant Potseluev who kept a tavern "Potseluy" near there. They say that the boundary of St. Petersburg passed along this bridge, and everyone was kissing their goodbyes there. Sad story tells about the last kisses lovers gave to their better halves that were sent to prison. There is a tradition for newlyweds: the longer they kiss on the bridge, the longer they will be happy in marriage. According to this tradition Potseluev Bridge is contrasted to drawbridges which symbolize separation.

THE GARDENS' SECRET SHADE



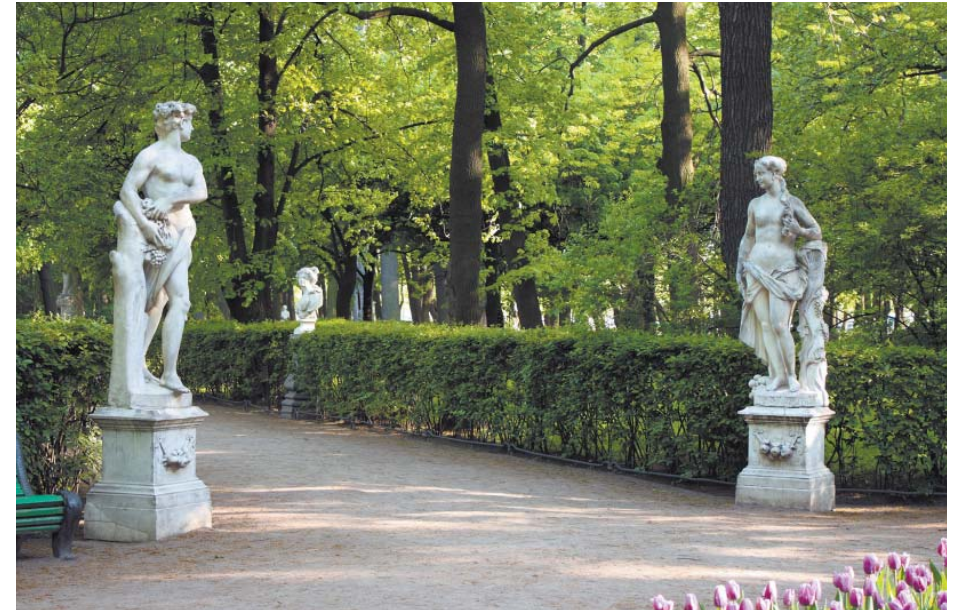
Elagin Island

The popularity of Elagin Island dates back to the middle of the 19th century and is connected with the name of Countess Julia Samoilova. All St. Petersburg gathered on the receptions she arranged in Grafskaya Slavyanka (near Pavlovsk). Even Tsarskoye Selo emptied out during her receptions, which immensely irritated Nicholas I and he insisted on selling the estate to him. Samoilova, confident that St. Petersburg society will continue coming to her, went to then deserted spit of Yelagin Island. And indeed, everyone started gathering to the deserted western end of the island. Today Elagin Island remains one of the best places for romantic dates. In summer you can rent a boat or catamaran and in winter there's open a large 800 m² ice rink.

OPOCHINSKY GARDEN

A heart-tree appeared on Vasilevsky Island relatively recently, only five years ago. And then the whole Alley of Love arose in OPOCHINSKY garden! By design, it will become a place of pilgrimage for honeymooners and couples. Newlyweds attach locks on the crown of the red tree and hide the keys in the chest which stands near the tree trunk. The ritual symbolizes the power of love and the inviolability of the marriage tie.

The Saint Petersburg Botanical Garden



There's perfect tropics and subtropics scenery for a date that you can find in "Northern Paradise". You can walk around the greenhouses without a guide, choosing your own pace and route in the Botanical Garden of Peter the Great. Every couple will find something interesting – ferns, orchids, camellias, azaleas, jazz concerts and tea ceremonies. Botanical garden is on Aptekarsky Island (2, ul. Professor Popova (st. m. Gorkovskaya).

The Summer Garden

There're nearly a hundred sculptures on the territory of Summer Garden. However, a special value for lovers is located near Lebyazhya kanavka (the Swan canal), it is sculptural group "Cupid and Psyche" by Italian sculptor of the late 17th century. According to the myth, Psyche was the wife of the God of love Cupid; the lovers met only in the dark time and Psyche never saw Cupid's face. Jealous sisters convinced Psyche that her husband was a hideous monster and she lit the night lamp to look at him and to kill him with a dagger. However, she saw not a monster but a handsome Cupid, and hate was replaced with love.

Alexander II and Catherine Dolgorukova

Ekaterina Mikhailovna Dolgorukova being a student of Smolny Institute was introduced to Emperor Alexander II at the age of 17 years on the day of his visit to Smolny. Relations erupted between them continued for many years, their secret meetings were held in the Summer garden, in the Belvedere which is in Peterhof. Later, when they already had children Dolgorukova moved to a house on English embankment (46, Angliyskaya nab.). Shortly before the death of the Emperor she became the morganatic wife of the Emperor and received the title of Princess Yurievskaya. After the assassination of the Emperor, his son Alexander III, fulfilling the will of his father, acquired the Small Marble Palace (3, ul. Gagarinskaya) for the widow. There was open a memorial museum dedicated to Alexander II in the rooms of the palace at the insistence of the Princess.

Oh! Thank you, thank you, my dear angel, for all these sweet memories that have brought so much pleasure to me, as all that brings to me my sweet wife, who is the center of my life. And I'm blissful and proud to be you husband before God.

(Alexander II in his letter to the Princess Yurevskaya)



Venus pavilion in the Gatchina Park



There's pavilion of Venus at the very edge of the island in Gatchina, it is separated from the main park with artificially dug channels; this is one of the most romantic architectural structures of the park.

The idea to create in Gatchina a love island came to the mind of the Emperor Paul I during his wedding trip around Europe in the French town of Chantilly, where he and his wife were traveling incognito, under the names of Count and Countess of the North (du Nord). The Royal couple was given a solemn reception at the residence of the Prince of Condé and made a strong impression on the monarch. And there appeared a catch phrase in Paris: "the King took the Prince of the North, as a friend, the Duke of Orleans — bourgeois, Prince of condé — royally".

The construction of the love temple was carried out by the Italian architect Vincenzo Brenna. There was a small regular garden on the island and was built a wooden pavilion, reminiscent of an ancient temple of the goddess Venus. The pavilion blends harmoniously into the main line of the landscapes as a part of the White lake panorama, opening from the main entrance to the Palace Park.

Another Emperor, Alexander III used to like spending time in Gatchina, whose name is linked to another love story.

Alexander III and Maria Feodorovna



Dynastic marriages of the Imperial Russia were meant to fasten political relations with Europe, being rather diplomatic action. But tender feelings also were born in such circumstances. For example, Alexander III and the Danish Princess Dagmar; this family was said no way as a model.

The marriage of crown Prince Alexander and the Princess was held in the Great Church of the Winter Palace, which today is one of the halls of the Hermitage. After the wedding the couple moved to the Anichkov Palace; during the reign of Alexander III the palace became the Imperial residence. Summer residence was the Alexander Palace in Tsarskoye Selo, but, after ascending the throne, Alexander III and his family preferred Gatchina Palace. After the death of the Emperor, Maria Feodorovna stayed in the Anichkov Palace until the October revolution.

Looking forward to your first letter, but not sure when I'll get it. It's boring and empty without you here (in Gatchina), and all day otherwise, it's not that; I hate being alone again and far from you, my darling Minnie!

(Alexander III in his letter to Maria Feodorovna)

Singing and Dancing Fountains



The romantic atmosphere of the city on the Neva River hardly could be completed without the singing and dancing fountains.

Two fountain complexes are located near the monuments to Lenin. One of them is situated at Moskovskaya ploshchad, in front of the House of Soviets (metro Moscovskaya), which is one of the largest squares in St. Petersburg and Europe. It was erected in 2006 and quickly gained popularity among residents of the city. Here they date, and during summertime you can feel the desirable coolness, and in the evening more spectacular twenty-minute light and music show fascinating for watching. Show hours: in summer from 11:00 to 23:00. The show on weekdays: 12:00, 20:00, 20:40. On weekends and holidays there are additional shows at 16:00.

Not less important and exciting are the singing fountains near Finlyandsky railway station (metro Ploschad Lenina). It works from 10:00 to 23:00. The schedule of the music show: 12:00, 21:40 (weekdays); 12:00, 20:00, 21:00 and 21:40 (weekends and holidays).

Touching on the theme of music in the city, it is necessary to say about Dmitry Shostakovich and his romantic history.

Dmitri Shostakovich and Tatiana Glivenko



The prominent Soviet composer and pianist Dmitri Shostakovich completed the Symphony No. 1 in F minor (Opus 10) written as his graduation piece in the Petrograd Conservatory in 1925. It owes its origin to a love story.

In 1923 17 year old Mitya visited a Crimean health resort where he met Tatiana Glivenko who became his first love. She was a Moscowite, the daughter of famous theorist of literature. Their feelings turned out to be mutual and their love relationship continued in Leningrad. All the emotional stress and uncertainty of this period Shostakovich expressed in the Symphony No. 1 performed by the first time on 12 May 1926 in the hall of the Petrograd Philharmonia. Tatiana came to this place to encourage her beloved before his appearances. This amour didn't capped by marriage, however it gave birth to one of the best music piece of the composer.

How could I not to love him!.. If saints exist, he was one of them...

(T. Glivenko about D. Shostakovich)

POETRY IN STONE AND BRONZE



Pushkin Monument at Arts Square

All creative work of the greatest poet A. S. Pushkin is saturated with love and passion. This fact, probably, triggered for an unusual strength assignment to his memorial. It is accepted that it is capable of reunite people in quarrel or return bygone passion. To make intended things real one should recollect lines from Pushkin love lyrics and plead him in spirit.

Carl and Emilia Sculpture

Probably, there is no more romantic legend in the city, than the tragically love story of Carl and Emilia — Romeo and Juliet of St. Petersburg. These young people having despaired of getting parental consent to their marriage committed a suicide to be united for ages. The legend is based on the true story that happened in summer 1855. Gradually a desire to commemorate the legend about Carl and Emilia developed into the idea to create an all lovers monument. It made for up-to-date, very appealing and mysterious in the same time: under an opened umbrella young people embrace each other. You can tell them your own story at 22, ulitsa Butlerova (metro Politekhnikeskaya).

Alexander Pushkin and Natalia Goncharova



Alexander Pushkin got acquainted with Natalia Goncharova during one of Moscow dances. The poet wrote later to Natalia's mother that when he saw her daughter he fell in love at once. Consent to the marriage was received only after poet's second attempt. After the marriage the couple settled in Kitayeva dacha in Tsarskoye Selo (A. S. Pushkin Memorial Museum, town Pushkin, 2/19, ulitsa Pushkinskaya) and lived for some months rather solitarily, in autumn they moved to Golovkin house at 53, Galernaya ulitsa. The poet was truly happy within marriage. Bystanders having been near Pushkin during his separation from wife confirmed that when he received her letters he smothered them with kisses. Their story finished tragically. On 8 February 1837 at naberezhnaya Chyornoi Rechki took place a duel between A. S. Pushkin and G. d'Anthès who was according courtesy to Pushkin's wife. Pushkin had died of wound in his family apartment at 12, naberezhnaya reki Moyki.

The Purest Sample of the Purest Charm...

(A. S. Pushkin "Madonna" (dedication to Natalia Nicolayevna))

Atlants of New Hermitage



Five-meter statues have being sculpted for five years by 150 stonemason masters and have being polished manually for three years more. Warmed by masters' love proud juveniles overgrow with legends. For example, according to one of proverbial signs, fiancé and bride should hold on to the big toes of Atlants to have happy marriage and beautiful children. And if go alone to hold on to a toe of the sculpture, juveniles will help in issues decisions.

Indian Gods in the Yard of Kunstkamera

Indian gods' sculptures are waiting for guests in the yard of Kunstkamera which is imperceptible at first sight. People don't drop litter and low companies don't gather here: gods have too menacing sight. Instead, couples like arranging here frank talks; this is because according to a legend near the figures one mustn't lie, otherwise, the punishment will follow. Indian gods' sculptures indeed could have unusual skills as they are the copies of ancient sculptures from St. Augustine valley (their plaster models were made by Steppel, a famous traveler). Using these plaster models gods' sculptures were made in Germany in 1913 and brought to St. Petersburg. The sculptures were placed into shed by museum stuff-members and in the middle of 60s were displayed to the yard.

Tragical Aurora



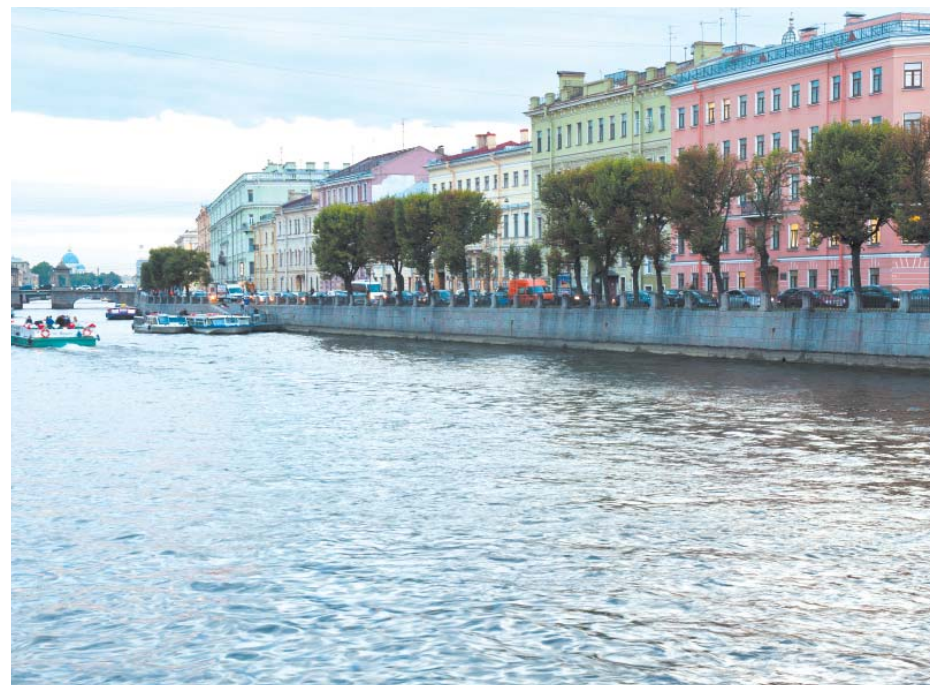
Aurora Carlovna Stjernvall was foretold a misfortune. The girl was beautiful; she had got many admirers and was going to marry young when she lived in Helsinki. Her fiancé died when he fell off the horse on the eve of their wedding. Aurora was in the deepest sadness that's why she was sent to St. Petersburg to take her mind off things. Here she met her true love — Pavel Demidov. They settled at 45, Bolshaya Morskaya ulitsa and lived within marriage for 4 years. Demidov died in a short time after their son had been born. The second Aurora Carlovna's husband was Andrey Karamzin, the son of N. M. Karamzin. Karamzin loved his wife and tried to become a good father to her son, they lived happily for 8 years. He was killed in Crimea during Russian-Turkish war. Aurora has never been married anymore. She lived a long life being a close friend of Alexander II family. When she visited tsar's dances she put upon her mourning dress her wedding gift — the biggest diamond in the world called Samsi.

*Go and breathe inspiration into us,
You, the namesake of dawn...
Animate and light us up
With your auroral emergence! An ardent adolescent
Looks hard at his darling
And sometimes thinks with quiet craving:
Who will you be the sun of happiness for?*

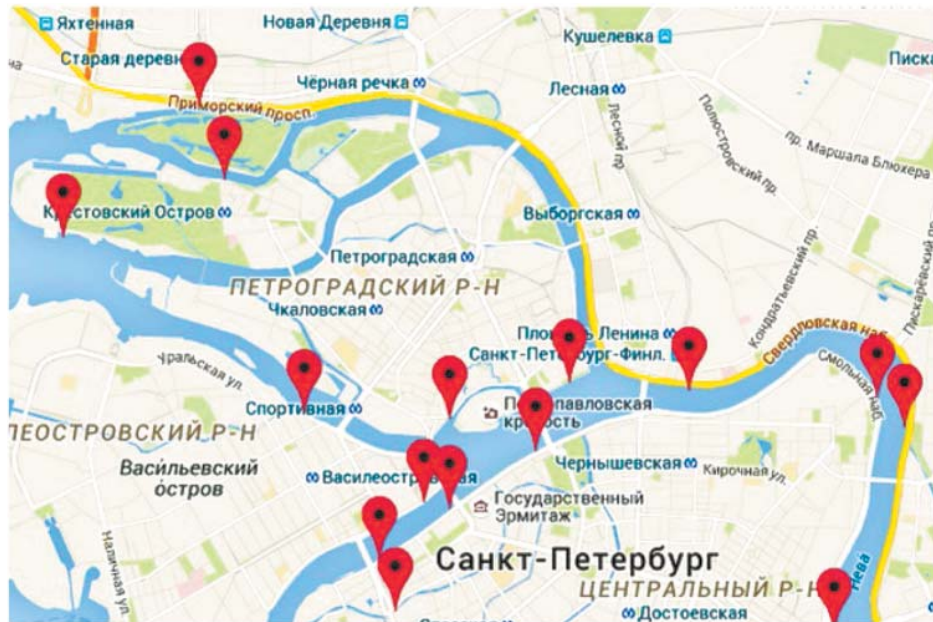
(To Aurora S. E. A. Baratynsky)

RIVERS AND CANALS

Saint Petersburg is a city of rivers and canals. During the walk through the city centre, you constantly find the places, from where you can go on an exciting water cruise. This can be done on the embankment near the Summer Garden, near Hermitage, opposite the Bronze Horseman monument, at the intersection of Nevsky prospekt and Fontanka river embankment or Griboedov Canal and Moika river embankment. Trips may also be different: through the rivers and canals or along the Neva River, exploring the embankments, facades and architecture or enjoying the night city. From the ship you can see the amazing landscapes, which you won't see from the shore. For residents of St. Petersburg the picture is quite familiar but it always impresses with its grace and beauty. Fresh wind moves through the girl's hair on the ship. She holds her boyfriend's hand. And here is the bridge, while passing under it; lovers certainly give each other a kiss. It has become a tradition — kissing under the bridges in St. Petersburg brings happiness in the relationships. And, of course, it is necessary to wave to the people, who are romantic, same as you, while they are strolling along the embankments or standing on the bridges.



Pleasure Crafts Mooring Sites



The main berths can be found near the bridges over any canal or river, if you come along Nevsky prospekt.

First of all, berths are located on the both sides near the Anichkov Bridge over the Fontanka River, and also opposite 21, naberezhnaya reki Fontanki (next to the Faberge Museum), on 34, naberezhnaya reki Fontanki (near the Sheremetev Palace). Moreover, there are berths on the both sides from Kazansky Bridge over the Griboyedov Canal: near the House of Books (Singer House) and near the Kazan Cathedral.

The list of the main berths, from where the pleasure crafts cruises mainly along the Neva River and comes to the Gulf of Finland, is described below:

- 22, Dvortsovaya naberezhnaya. Berth near the Winter Canal,
- 32, Dvortsovaya naberezhnaya. Berth near the Hermitage,
- 2, Admiralteyskaya naberezhnaya. Lions on Palace Berth,
- 8, Admiralteyskaya naberezhnaya,
- 16, Admiralteyskaya naberezhnaya,
- Admiralteyskaya naberezhnaya. Berth near the Bronze Horseman.

Near Peter and Paul Fortress:

- Kronverkskaya naberezhnaya, near Ioannovsky Bridge,
- Berth near the Nevsky Gate of Peter and Paul Fortress.

Rivers and Canals Boat Rides

Night trip under the drawbridges can produce the vivid impressions. In fact, from the water, you can observe the drawing of, even, several bridges over the Neva River, which are illuminated with the colored lights. While from the shore, you can manage to see through the crowd only the rise of one of the famous drawbridges. Water cruises under the drawbridges begins after the midnight. But, even, the regular daily boat ride on rivers and canals can be romantic. The majority of standard routes include Fontanka River, Griboyedov Canal, Kryukov Canal, Moyka River, Winter Canal and Neva River. The Neva River and the Gulf of Finland is in the focus of some water cruises, when the boat goes round the Vasilevsky Island. Also there are boat trips to the northern islands of St. Petersburg — Krestovsky, Kamenny and Elagin islands and to the Petrograd Side. All of the last from 1,5 to 2,5 hours. Besides the standard routes, there are other types of water cruises. You can organize the romantic dinner with live music or you can join the summer floating disco. The companies, which offer this kind of entertainment, can be found at the berths of Admiralteyskaya and Dvortsovaya embankments.



Tips and Advice

When you plan to go on the boat trip, keep in mind some general guidelines:

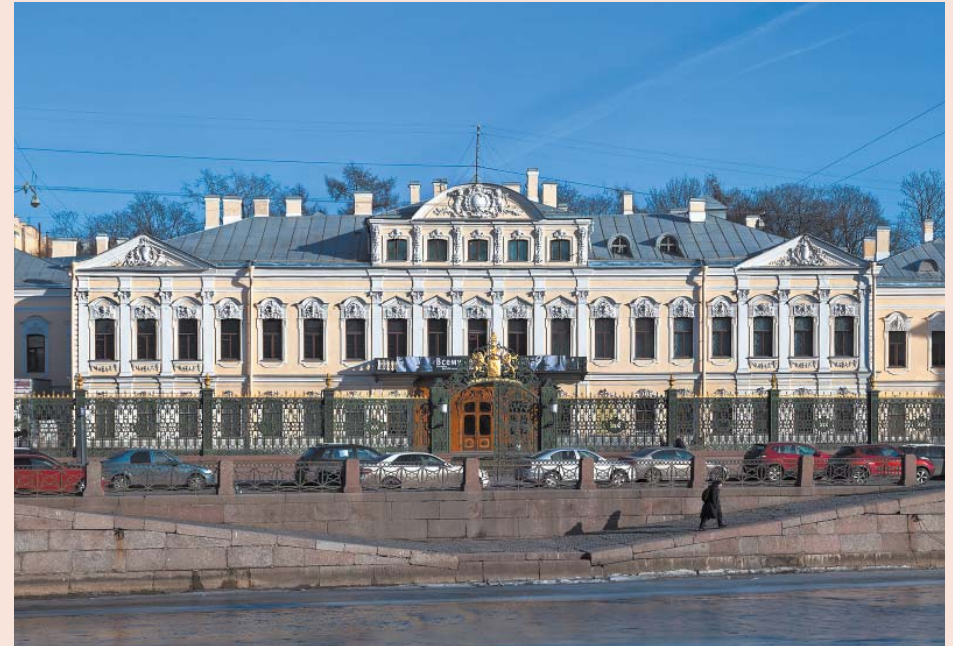
It is always cool on the water, so dress warmly;

- You can take on board the thermo cup or the thermos bottle with hot tea, it won't harm;
- You should ask, in advance, about the presence of the blankets on board. Almost every boat is equipped with the set of blankets, but just in case, better to be sure that you have something that will help you to hide from the wind on water;
- You need to take care of the technical equipment, such as cameras, as the water can easily reach the open desk of the boat;
- It is important to remember that it is strictly forbidden to get up, when you are sailing under the low bridges;
- When you plan a boat cruise with the drawbridges, it is better to choose the hotel on the left side of the Neva River (on the side where Nevsky prospekt is situated), to get after the excursion to the hotel without any problems and unnecessary costs. The raising of the Palace (Dvortsovy), Blagoveshensky, Troitsky and Liteyny bridges is the most spectacular.

Follow the schedule of the drawbridges over the Neva River, which is shown below.

Alexander Nevsky bridge	/2:20	5:10\	
Birzhevoy	/2:00	4:55\	
Blagoveshchensky	/1:25	2:45\ /3:10	5:00\
Bolsheokhtinsky	/2:00	4:55\	
Volodarsky	/2:00	3:45\ /4:15	5:45\
Dvortsovy	/1:10	2:50\ /3:10	4:55\
Liteyny	/1:40	4:45\	
Troitskiy	/1:20	4:50\	
Tuchkov	/2:00	2:55\ /3:35	4:55\

Count Sheremetev and Praskovia Zhemchugova



The love story of Count Nikolai Sheremetev and a serf actress Praskovia Zhemchugova is like a fairy tale.

The Count loved theatre and decided to bring his father's home theatre on the European level. He chose talented people from his land holdings and gave them "precious" surnames. This way Praskovia Kovalyova became Praskovia Zhemchugova ("zhemchug" is "pearl" in Russian). Eventually, the Count fell in love with her. "I will marry nobody, but her", he wrote in one of his letters. He secretly married her in Moscow and she became Countess Sheremeteva. They lived in St. Petersburg, in 34 Naberezhnaya reki Fontanki. Praskovia died 3 weeks after giving life to their son, Dmitriy.

Virtue in her mind, sincerity, humanity, constancy, fidelity. These qualities... made me flout the secular prejudice about a family's nobility and choose her as my wife...

(Nikolai Sheremetev to his son)

SHALL WE WALK?

Romantic Excursions in St. Petersburg

If you order a romantic excursion, you can spend time with your soul mate and learn a lot about the city.

Bicycle Trip "Romantic Places in St. Petersburg"

You will see the Potseluyev Bridge (the Bridge of Kisses), Nikolskaya Square, New Holland, Summer Garden, Inzhenerniy Castle, Saint Alexander Nevsky Monastery. Many people consider these places very romantic, you will surely want to come back.

Contacts: Excursion Bureau "Walks in St. Petersburg"

Tel.: +7 (812) 309-34-17, +7 (812) 309-51-92

Web-site: www.excurspb.ru

Bicycle Trip "Lights of St. Petersburg's Nights"

You can see beautiful architecture and white nights of St. Petersburg. The 3-hour excursion is led by an individual guide at night. You will visit the Vasilyevsky Island, New Holland, embankments, bridges and see cruiser "Aurora".

Contacts: Excursion Bureau "Walks in St. Petersburg"

Tel.: +7 (812) 309-34-17, +7 (812) 309-51-92

Web-site: www.excurspb.ru

Excursion "Romantic St. Petersburg"

You will visit Nevsky Prospekt, unique St. Petersburg's yards, monuments, place where you can see 7 bridges at the same time and much more. You can either walk or go by bus.

Contacts: Original Excursions and Trips

Tel.: +7 (909) 584-52-53, +7 (921) 952-39-69

Web-site: www.otkroi.spb.ru

Romantic Quests



If you want to make a surprise for your loved one, you can choose a romantic quest. You two will definitely remember this day. You can even create a scenario of the quest by yourself or with a specialist.

The Agency of Romantic Dates "Happiness" offers you a romantic quest in your favorite places, surprises and presents. You can give your suggestions and ideas to the specialists, and they will take care of all the arrangements.

Contacts: The Agency of Romantic Dates "Happiness"

Tel.: +7 (812) 903-70-33

Web-site: www.schastie-events.com

"Piter Quests" company offers various thematic quests that won't fail to make first dates, anniversaries or even marriage proposals unforgettable.

Contacts: "Piter Quests"

Tel.: +7 (911) 137-93-98

Web-site: www.piterquest.ru

Clickety-click



Guests and residents of St. Petersburg have an opportunity to spend an evening travelling throughout the city by an old retro tram. During the trip you can not only see the city by night, but also enjoy live saxophone music, take wonderful photos with your loved one, and have a glass of champagne.

The route starts from ulitsa Chapayeva ("Gorkovskaya" metro station), you will go along Petropavlovskaya naberezhnaya, cross the Troitskiy Bridge (there you will see Neva River, Peter and Paul Fortress and Dvortsovaya naberezhnaya), turn to ulitsa Sadovaya and stop near Pokrovsky Skver. You can get off the tram and walk or go back in the same tram.

You should book the excursion in advance.

Tel.: +7 (812) 680-16-62, +7 (911) 240-67-19

E-mail: retro@pbti-company.ru

Address of the Museum "Gorelectrotrans": 77 Sredny Prospekt V. O.

The route based on "Piter FM" movie



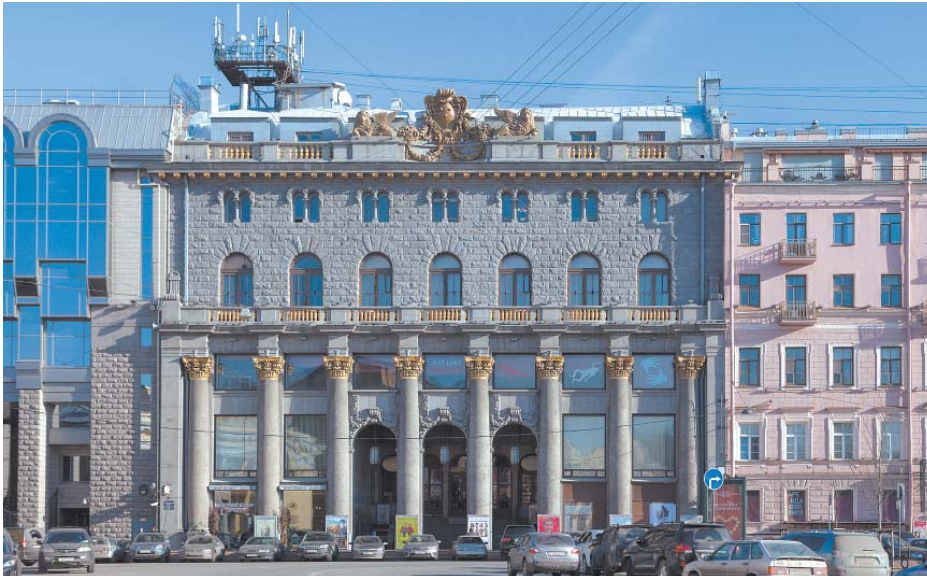
Visit a lot of picturesque places from the movie "Piter FM".

The route starts from the Silin Bridge on the Petrogradsky Island, then goes to the ploshchad Lva Tolstogo, Nikolayev's House (25, ul. Sadovaya), Podyachesky Bridge and K. I. Kapustin's House (159, nab. reki Fontanki). In the movie you can see a lot of bridges, because they are main symbols of St. Petersburg. So, if you follow the route, you will see the Belinskogo Bridge, Vtoroy Inzhenerny Bridge and Nizhny Lebyazhy Bridge. The last point of the route is the Swan Grove (Lebyazhiya Kanavka).

You can visit them, using the route in a tourist portal:

www.visit-petersburg.ru/ru/route/73

LIKE A MOVIE



Cozy Cinemas for Couples

Perhaps, going to the cinema is a sure bet for pleasant and careless pastime with your soulmate. A number of St. Petersburg cinemas offer their visitors intimate and romantic atmosphere in combination with domesticity.

The Rodina cinema is a classical movie theatre located in the city centre. Big hall's velvet chairs, an enormous screen, historical interiors — all of that will remind you that cinema is not just an entertainment, but also art.

Address: 12, Karavannaya ulitsa
Tel. +7 (812) 314-28-27

The Pandora cinema creates a pleasant atmosphere for the film watching with your beloved one. Is it possible to find anything better? In addition, there are soft sofas, teddy bears and warm plaids to add to the comfortable setting. All this can be found here, however, don't forget to reserve the hall in advance.

Address: 80, naberezhnaya Obvodnogo kanala
Tel. +7 (812) 981-54-34

Kino House Anticinema

One of the most unusual options for a movie-date is the anti-cinema "Kino House". Cinema halls for rent can be locked, so no stranger will bother you. Moreover, you can bring a film with you or choose one from the cinema's collection.

Address: 22, ul. Rubinshteyna
Tel. +7 (812) 425-62-35

Kinoparking cinema

If you want to experience a new thrill, the Kinoparking cinema offers you a quite rare service for Russia – a drive-in. An open-air cinema waits its guests from the Friday evening till Sunday.

Address: 5, ul. Akademika Pavlova
Tel. +7 (812) 900-07-78

Angleterre Cinema Lounge

A new tendency of St. Petersburg cinemas is showing movies in original language with subtitles. The cozy and intellectual atmosphere will please foreign tourists, professional linguists and non-expert polyglots. "Angleterre Cinema Lounge" is located on the ground floor of the well-known hotel "Angleterre", near St. Isaac's Cathedral.

Address: 24, ul. Malaya Morskaya
Tel. +7 (812) 494-50-63

Kapriz is a private cinema for two. And just the two of you can enjoy your favorite movie here. Guests can rent not only a cinema hall, but also use other types of service (e.g. the rose petals and balloons hall decoration, the champagne and/or fruit order and also a photo slideshow of yours or an audio-track with a prerecorded message to your partner).

Address: 134, naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala
Tel. +7 (921) 796-54-56

“St. Petersburg, I Love You!” Festival



For those who love evening strolls in summer and romantic movies set in the Northern Capital, the annual film festival “St. Petersburg, I Love You” will be an ideal event.

Some romantic movies (which were filmed in St. Petersburg) are shown in the open-air cinema during the festival on the Peter and Paul Fortress territory, on the coast of the Kronverksky strait. The festival offers its guests various types of activity: live performances by the young local musicians, summer sports games and a food court.

Here you can take photos near some art objects, to show the imagination and creative abilities by drawing a picture with love confession to the city.

For more detailed information about time and date please visit an event page in social networks.

The festival is organized by the “Roof Cinema” project.

“Farewell to St. Petersburg” film is based on the love story between Johann Strauss and Olga Smirnitskaya. Having watched the movie, you will be able to learn more about the mystery of the relations between two composers.

Johann Strauss and Olga Smirnitskaya



In 1856 a composer Johann Strauss visited the Russian Empire for the first time. During the summer season he managed to give a lot of concerts in the building of Pavlovsky railway station. That’s where he met Olga Smirnitskaya — one of the first women composers in Russia. Their mutual sympathy attraction developed into passionate correspondence and the creative union. Strauss made orchestrations for several Olga’s works and included them into his own concerts. Her parents were against the union between their daughter and not a well-known composer, and the girl shied away from an elopement. As a memento of Strauss’s Russian tours there are many fine works left to enjoy: “A quadrille on the Strelna terrace”, “Farewell to St. Petersburg”, “Memories of Pavlovsk”, “Polka Neva” and 100 touching letters from Johann Strauss to Olga Smirnitskaya. The railway station building was damaged in days of the Great Patriotic War, but the GMZ “Pavlovsk” continues a concert tradition. Nowadays, the concerts take place in the Rose pavillion.

Take my heart, so that it could prove to You how much it loves You and so that it could devote every God-given bit of it to You!

(J. Strauss, in a letter to O. Smirnitskaya)

ON HIGH



If you are looking for a romantic place for a date, there are plenty of options which would allow you to admire the beauty of St. Petersburg from a bird's-eye view and appreciate the city skyline.

Roof Music Fest is an annual event in St. Petersburg. Throughout all summer musical concerts are held on specially equipped roofs. Talented musicians play in genres of jazz, pop rock, fusion, indie and even a new format for an harp. All this you can enjoy in open-air on roofs of Vvedensky hotel (37, Bolshoy pr. of Petrograd Side), "Petrokongress" Congress Hall (5, Lodeynopolskaya ul.), Loft Project ETAGI (74, Ligovsky pr.), "HI-HAT" (4, Aptekarsky Pr.) and "REDSTARS" (30, naberezhnaya reki Pryazhki).

You can enjoy cinema without popcorn, but savouring nice drinks, while wrapped up in a plaid together with your sweetheart, on the roofs of "HI-HAT" and "MOD" club (7, naberezhnaya kanala Griboyedova) where they show both new and well-known movies. The roof of the Loft Project "ETAGI" is an ideal place for romantic dates, with its beautiful view on Ligovsky prospekt, domes and spires of the cathedrals.

Cosmos 2.0



What is the Northern Capital famous for besides the Hermitage and the White Nights? It has the particularly suitable atmosphere for organizing the most romantic dates on the rooftops of the city. Some absolutely safe and comfortable roofs are just created for sheltering two lovers, especially in the summer. One of such roofs in St. Petersburg is an open "Cosmos" ("Space") rooftop where you can admire the wonderful view of Peter and Paul Fortress, Church of the Savior on the Spilled Blood, Saint Isaac's and Trinity Cathedrals.

Don't worry about the rain — this rooftop has sheds; you can bundle up plaids while sitting on the bench in the nasty weather.

This place makes a specialty out of the dates for two in a romantic setting. Here you can both retire together from whole world and organize a party for friends, hen party or even a small wedding with the registration ceremony held directly on the roof. Musicians, a swing set and champagne can be provided at your request.

Address: 11, 11 Krasnoarmeyskaya ul.
Tekhnologichesky Institut metro station;
VK: vk.com/roofkosmos

Dinner for Two with the City View



Saint Petersburg is famous among the tourists not only for the majestic architectural ensembles, drawbridges and white nights, but also for the magnificent panoramas opening from the height. A number of St. Petersburg restaurants successfully use this feature of the city by equipping special panoramic sites where you can not only relish a delicious dinner but also enjoy the urban landscape.

Terrassa Restaurant

Gorgeous view opening from the restaurant's outdoor terrace on the Kazan Cathedral is a special reason to visit this place. The restaurant's menu is a combination of European and Asian cuisine.

Address: 3A Kazanskaya ulitsa

Bellevue Brasserie

The restaurant is located on the ninth floor of a five-star Kempinski Hotel Moika 22. This hotel is so close to the Palace Square that a unique view of the Winter Palace, the Alexander Column and St. Isaac's Cathedral opens up from the top floor. The special terrace opens in the restaurant in the summer, for the rest of the time you can admire the city from the panoramic windows which look like the glass walls.

Address: 22 nab. reki Moyki, Kempinski Hotel Moika 22

Mansarda Restaurant

The stunning view of St. Isaac's Cathedral and the panorama around it opens from the panoramic windows of the restaurant located on the top floor of Quattro Corti Business Center.

Address: 3 Pochtamtorskaya ulitsa

Moskva Restaurant

The Moskva Restaurant is located on the sixth floor of Nevsky Centre. The view of Ploshchad Vosstaniya, Moskovsky railway station and Nevsky Prospekt opens from the windows of the restaurant.

Address: 114 Nevsky prospekt, Nevsky Center Shopping Mall

Krysha 18 Restaurant

A beautiful city landscape of the Petrograd side and moored beside it Cruiser Aurora opens from the panoramic windows of the restaurant. Equipped terrace of the restaurant will allow to enjoy opening urban landscape to the full.

Address: 18 Petrogradskaya embankment, City Center Business Center

Green Room Cafe

The Green Room Cafe is located on the third floor of the popular ETAGI Loft Project. You can sit on the open terrace at the strange wooden spool tables in warm weather. Moreover, ETAGI itself is interesting too because of regular exhibitions, festivals and other cultural events.

Address: 74 Ligovsky prospekt

PMI BAR

The bar is located on the rooftop of the eight-storey building on the Moyka River. 360° panorama demonstrates a magnificent view of the city attractions. Don't be afraid of the wind — the glass barrier will save you from the nasty weather.

Address: 7 nab. reki Moyki

Barashki Restaurant

The restaurant with an eye-catching name “Barashki” (“Lambs”) is located on the top floor of “PIK” Shopping and Entertainment Center at Sennaya Ploshchad. Panoramic windows look out on the traditional St. Petersburg roofs creating an appropriate atmosphere.

Address: 2 ulitsa Efimova, “PIK” Shopping and Entertainment Center

Parusa Na Kryshe Restaurant

The restaurant is located on the tenth floor. Summer terrace and wide panoramic windows open to their guests a gorgeous view of the domes of the famous cathedrals, the spire of Peter and Paul Cathedral and the popular St. Petersburg roofs. The restaurant has four rooms: an open show kitchen, a karaoke room, a panoramic room and a vip-room, so that everyone will find something to their liking.

Address: 9 ulitsa Lva Tolstogo

Makaronniki Restaurant

The Makaronniki Italian cuisine restaurant is located on the rooftop of the six-storey building on the Petrograd side. The view of the two completely contrary objects opens from this point: the brutal construction of Yubileiny Sports Palace and the lightsome Cathedral of Prince Vladimir. Open terrace starts its work in the summer.

Address: 16 Dobrolyubova prospekt, Arena Hall Business Centre

NEW LOOK

Airplane & Helicopter Flights

Perhaps you and your soul mate have a sudden desire to soar above the vanity and world problems or someone of you has the fear of heights. You will have a unique chance to show the city from an unusual perspective to your loved one and maybe to help overcome his fear, if you decide to try airplane and helicopter flights for two.

Lovers can choose quiet sightseeing and familiarization flights with an experienced pilot over St. Petersburg, Kronstadt with its forts and fortresses, the Gulf of Finland and Peterhof.

A romantic flight over the city at night will be a magical gift and definitely stick in the memory for the entire life. There are various programs: synchronous night flights on the different airplanes on the same level with the pilots performing some simple tricks, calm night flights with a great declaration of love in the form of a huge bright inscription which will glow in the dark on the field. Night flights are conducted in the evening until 11 p.m. The description of routes available at different airfields, contact details and full information about the purchase of flight certificates can be found on the official websites of flying clubs Aviaduh, Piterpolet, Vzletim and Sky Jumper.



Ballooning



Would you like to make to your beloved person an unforgettable gift which will become a memory to treasure? In this case why no to choose a flight in the air-balloon?

Avionika

The team "Avionika" is glad to offer lovers a flight in the scarlet air-balloon in the shape of heart. You have possibility to reserve a flight only for two or join to a group.

Address: 5, Aviakonstruktorov pr.

Telephone: +7 (911) 016-77-13

Web-site: www.avionika-vl.ru

Aeroclub "Aviadukh"

You can appreciate fully the palace ensembles of Tsarkoe Selo and Pavlovsk only from the height by taking an air-walk offered by the club "Aviadukh". The aeronaut initiation ceremony and diplomas, provided for those who have taken their first flight, will become a pleasant surprise.

Address: 12A, Sadovaya ul. (3th floor)

Telephone: +7 (812) 926-37-26

Web-site: www.poletsamolet.ru

"Neva Aero"

The company "Neva Aero" offers flights above the picturesque landscapes of Saint Petersburg suburbs. It also offers an "individual flight" in terms of which there is an opportunity to book a flight only or a couple.

Address: 5/22, Dumskaya ul., office 2

Telephone: +7 (812) 640-19-39

Web-site: www.neva-aero.ru

Aeroclub "HeliSky"

"HeliSky" offers air-balloon flights above the city center and the suburbs all year round. You can book a heart-shaped air-balloon for a romantic date.

Address: Aptekarsky pr, 2, building 3, office 19

Telephone: +7 (812) 401-41-32

Web-site: www.heliskyclub.ru

"Jet Extrem"

The "Jet Extrem" team provides with the flights above the famous Saint Petersburg suburbs such as Pushkin, Pavlovsk, Gathina. During a one-hour flight in the balloon you will experience positive emotions and unforgettable impressions.

Address: 34, 9 Liniya V. O., office 201, Business center "Magnus"

32, Borovaya ul., Business center "Stells"

Telephone: +7 (812) 309-54-05

Web-site: www.jetextreme.pro

Aeroclub "Piter Polet"

The aeroclub organizes ballooning in aerostats above the scenic landscapes of Saint Petersburg suburbs and Leningrad region. If you want to surprise your soul mate, you may order a heart-shaped air-balloon and then your trip will be even more memorable.

Address: 5/29, Poltavskaya ul.

Telephone: +7 (812) 922-02-63

Web-site: www.piterpolet.com

Saint Petersburg Oceanarium



St. Petersburg Oceanarium is not only a unique entertainment and educational center, but, first of all, it is the house for more than 4,5 thousand live organisms.

It can be called a particular museum where children and adults will be able to explore living exhibits. It also will be entertaining for couples to spend time here, especially in a foul weather. The Aquarium is a definitely good place where you have an opportunity to wait out the rain, by spending quality time and broadening one's mind.

The square of the Oceanarium is 5 000 m², the common quantity of aquariums is 48, the volume of the smallest one is 300 l of water.

In the Oceanarium there are daily shows with sharks and seals that perform complicated tricks under the guidance of tamers. You can also see the feeding of piranhas, caesios, tropical species.

Address: 86, ul. Marata (Shopping mall "Planeta Neptun")

Telephone: +7 (921) 932-21-84

Web site: www.planeta-neptun.ru/ocean

Horrors of Petersburg



"Horrors of Petersburg" is a kind of a contemporary theatrical museum. Despite its age, the museum has become a rightful and unique city sight. It is not a chamber of horrors, as two professional troops work here. Thought out to the last detail scenery, spectacular tricks of the light and high technologies create effect of a full involvement into events. Within one hour you will experience many frightening events which are developed in this parallel world of a dark side of Saint Petersburg. Certainly, it's spooky inside, but you are not alone and your brave soulmate, of course, will be near, holding you by the hand at the right time.

At the exit from museum, you will be suggested to get souvenirs and photos.

You will really enjoy, having spent time in such unusual place, and then you will enthusiastically discuss these terrible adventures for a long time.

Address: 86, ul. Marata (Shopping mall "Planeta Neptun"), 2 floor

Telephone: +7 (812) 313-07-04

Web site: www.spbhorror.ru

Planetarium and Observatory



Walking under the night sky, searching of the Big Dipper, observing the falling stars... It seems, that such pastime is impossible in a city, where the sky is illuminated by lights, and sometimes stars aren't visible at all.

A great alternative to this is a visit to the observatory or planetarium, it will make the sky closer and reveal some of its secrets.

Planetarium

In the Star hall of the Petersburg Planetarium it is possible to observe the star sky, important astronomical phenomena, the movement of planets and the Sun.

As part of the "Program for two in Planetarium" you can spend time on an informative date: attend a romantic lecture, take an excursion, observe stars through the telescope. A dinner for two under a dome of Planetarium with the projected star sky will be a worthy end of the evening.

Address: 4, Alexandrovsky park
Telephone +7 (812) 233-26-53, +7 (812) 233-49-56
Web site: www.planetary-spb.ru

Pulkovo Observatory

The Main (Pulkovo) Observatory was founded in 1839 by the emperor Nicholas I, and since then it is the largest astronomical establishment in Russia.

The Pulkovo Observatory is included into the UNESCO World Heritage List and represents scientific center on studying of the space phenomena. Besides, there is the Astronomical museum where research associates conduct excursions themselves.

There are two kinds of excursions: basic and advanced. During the excursions you can visit The Astronomical museum, the largest refracting telescope in Russia, Big Pulkovo radio telescope, the Observatory park, and in fine weather make solar observations.

You have to book all excursion in advance on the telephone numbers noted below.

Address: 65, Pulkovskoe shosse, building 1
Booking excursions: +7 (812) 363-72-98, +7 (981) 946-59-15
Web site: www.gao.spb.ru



AS A MEMENTO



Just Like in the Old Times Photos

There is a cheerful tradition, reached us from the last century, to make small photos in a photobooth with the beloved or in the company of friends. In these photoboos you can fool about for a while, pull funny grimaces, put on masks and hats, joke, smile and kiss. In short, spend time as fun as you can imagine. A lot of places where it is possible to take such mini-photos can be found in St. Petersburg.

Creative art space “Tkachi” (“the Weavers”)

The creative project, known and popular among creative people, combines showrooms, workshops, shops of hand-made and original goods and a variety of entertainment. Exhibitions, concerts, master classes and seminars take place here. To sum up, in the creative space “Tkachi” you can have a good time and finally make a couple of photos in the photobooth on the first floor.

Address: metro station “Obvodny Canal”, 60, naberezhnaya Obvodnogo kanala

Loft Project Etagi

If you visit a festival or a presentation in the Loft Project Etagi, why not to make a few commemorative pictures? The booth is located on the ladder: if you cannot find it by yourself, ask other visitors, for sure, many regulars of this place has got their own cards.

Address: metro station “Ploschad Vosstaniya”, 74, Ligovsky pr.

Restaurant “Mansarda”

You can capture the image of a remarkable dinner at one of the best restaurants in the city.

Address: metro station “Admiralteyskaya”, 3, Pochtamtskaya ul.

Shopping mall “Galeria”

There is a photobooth on the first floor of the mall for those, who wish not only to do shopping but to leave a pleasant memory of the spent time on a glossy paper as well.

Address: metro station “Ploschad Vosstaniya”, 30, Ligovsky pr.

Theatre “Khudozhestvenny”

For a few minutes before the beginning at the “Premiere” hall it is possible to take a funny photo: the red photobooth is near the ladder.

Address: metro station “Mayakovskaya”, 67, Nevsky pr.

The Museum of Soviet Arcade Machines

Having spent a couple of hours playing the arcade machines, you can make a photo in a photobooth. The mood is at the peak, so would be the photos, cheerful and positive.

Address: metro station “Nevsky prospect”, 2B, Konyushennaya ul.

Club “Da:Da”

At the club “Da:Da” you can listen to music, visit artistic events, dance, have a drink at the bar and make new acquaintances. Briefly, you can spend a good week end and get splendid impressions. Before leaving, you can get into the photobooth with your new friends or the old ones and capture memories of a cheerful weekend on the cards.

Address: metro station “Sennaya ploshchad”, 47, Gorokhovaya ul.

Souvenirs and Gifts from St. Petersburg



Walking together along the main street — Nevsky Prospekt, as well as along the central streets that are adjacent to it, every second you will inevitably find a lot of souvenir shops, offering a huge number of different types of souvenirs with the views of the city, and even more often something that is too distant from souvenirs but is made with “the soul”. How not to get lost in this infinite numerical diversity of the goods with the image of the glorious city on Neva? How to find something original, that will remind you of a touching romance of St. Petersburg?

Below we present some places where you can get something unique and original, that will certainly appeal to the romantic mood of any kind.

Nado Zhe

Not far from the “Chernyshevskaya” metro station a small but really inspiring shop of authentic souvenirs “Nado Zhe” is located. Half of the goods are hand-made. The special atmosphere in this shop is guaranteed. You can easily stay in this friendly place for a long time, discovering things and wondering what an inspired man with unlimited fantasy can create. It is even more pleasant to come here after a walk in the Tavrichesky Garden, Sad Druzhby (“Garden of Friendship”) and cozy small streets of the Central District. Taking into consideration the originality of souvenirs and gifts, there is no doubt, that every romantic can discover something for himself in the shop “Nado Zhe”.

Address: metro station “Chernyshevskaya”, 19, Liteiny Prospekt

Opening hours: 11:00–21:00

The Chocolate Museum



Walking along the Nevsky Prospekt, you will see the graceful sculptures and signs with a curious title “The Chocolate Museum”. Visiting this shop and observing a great variety of sweets, you will definitely want to impress your beloved with a present. At first, it is very difficult to believe that all this beauty is made of black, milk and white chocolate. The figures and the city attractions in miniature of different shapes, colors and sizes can surprise anyone.

This place is the chocolate shop rather than a museum in the usual sense, here you can admire whimsical figures, and buy sweet presents, which you won’t be able to take your eyes from. And it will be hard to eat them without a note of regret.

It is possible to find these shops at the following addresses:

- 17, Nevsky pr.,
- 35, Nevsky pr.,
- 48, Nevsky pr. (Supermarket “Passage”),
- 62, Nevsky pr.,
- 18, ul. Zhukovskogo (metro station “Mayakovskaya”, “Ploshchad Vosstaniya”).

Delicious Memories: St. Petersburg Confectioneries



Saint Petersburg rarely pleases its citizens and guests with a good weather. Frequent rains and strong winds surprise no one and probably fall into a habit. But still sometimes one wants to hide from a nasty weather in a comfortable place with a cup of hot chocolate and something nice to eat.

Cafe-confectionery "Sever-Metropol"

"Sever-Metropol" is proud of the preservation of taste traditions. Here and now you can try the legendary cakes ("White Night", "Moon", "Aurora", "Leningrad", "Sever"), whose recipes were created in the mid 1930-s.

Addresses in the city center:

- 44, Nevsky pr.,
- 104, Nevsky pr.,
- 29, Sadovaya ul.

Bakery and Confectionery "Bushe"

Chain "Bushe" produces not only confectionery products (which you will find in plenty), but also bakery ones.

Addresses in the city center:

- 7, Malaya Morskaya ul.,
- 13, Razyezzhaya ul.,
- 18, nab. kan. Griboyedova,
- 33, Sredny pr. V.O.,
- Paradnaya ul., 3, k. 2,
- 10, ul. Vosstaniya.

Confectionery "Bize"

Chain "Bize" was founded in 2010 and has been already twice awarded the prize by the magazine "TimeOut". Individually designed interiors for each cafe make them both stylish and comfortable.

Addresses:

- 41, Zhukovskogo ul.,
- 1, Pochtamtorskaya ul.,
- 46, Mokhovaya ul.,
- 24–26 Karavannaya ul.

Cafe-confectionery "Sladkoezhka"

Cafes offer its guests a wide choice of cakes, desserts and pastry.

Addresses:

- 44, Gorokhovaya ul.,
- 2, Marata ul.,
- 25, Zakharyevskaya ul.,
- 6, Malaya Sadovaya ul.

Factory stores "Krupskaya"

Sweets "Squirrel", "Queen", "Lyre", "Bear in the north", chocolate "Special" are familiar to everyone from childhood. Time goes by, but the brand of Krupskaya factory is still popular and usually associated with a quality chocolate produced in St. Petersburg.

Addresses in the city center:

- 70A, Marata ul.,
- 17, Rimskogo-Korsakova pr.,
- 15, Vosstaniya ul.,
- 3, Bolshaya Posadskaya ul.,
- 64, Zagorodny pr.,
- 107, Nevsky pr.



House of Books (Singer House)



In the very heart of the city in front of the metro station Nevsky prospect lift its head an astonishingly beautiful six-story building of light green colour and art nouveau style with an elegant looking airy glassed dome topped with a glass globe. This is a St. Petersburg House of Books or Singer House which became one of the unofficial symbols of the city. In 1902–1904 it was built specially for the company “Singer”, which produced the reputed sewing machines. Today this famous bookshop is one of the biggest in St. Petersburg and Europe and not only books can be found here but a lot of bright, interesting gifts and souvenirs. In this, at first sight, Petersburg-stylish, haughty and bourgeois place is very comfortable and especially nice to choose gifts to a beloved one in such magnificent interiors. And there are plenty to choose from: shop occupies several floors and above it the coffee shop is located where you can enjoy a meal together admiring the Kazan Cathedral. In the evening one cannot take eyes off the glass tower when it is lightened up from the inside with a gentle blue-violet colour.

Address: 28, Nevsky pr.; **tel.:** +7(812) 448-23-55;
official website: www.spbdk.ru

“Bookvoed” Bookshops



If you happen to walk along the Nevsky prospect, you will see a big promising sign opposite Gostiny Dvor “Park of culture and reading”. This is one of the largest in St. Petersburg bookshops “Bookvoed”. This is the place that is useful to visit in search of ideas for presents for friends and beloved ones. Usually there is a special and fairly large department for presents and souvenirs in the shops of this chain where you can find almost everything that will later remind you of the city as well as a wide choice of books about St. Petersburg. In the shops of that kind one can have a real date: sophisticated conversation on literature as good as watching a movie together. A small extemporaneous literary evening can fairly easy take place in a cozy cafe in a book club “Bookvoed”.

Addresses in the city center:

- 13, Nevsky pr.,
- 46, Nevsky pr. (book club “Park of culture and reading”)
- 78, Nevsky pr.,
- 114–116, Nevsky pr. (Nevsky Center shopping center),
- 10/118, Ligovsky pr. (book club “Bookvoed” in Hotel “Oktiabrskaya”)
- 30, Ligovsky pr. (shopping center “Gallery”),
- 23, Pestelya st.,
- 23, Vladimirsky pr. (Shop of essential books “In all senses”),
- 23, Kirochnaya.

A Vintage Letter from the very heart of Saint Petersburg



Apart from the standard set of postal services, Saint Petersburg General Post Office offers something exceptional. Within the walls of this historical building, you can write and send a vintage letter using the vintage writing materials, such as an antique paper, pen and ink. It seems like to send good news from the past century, with a wax seal at the top, this letter will help you to get any important words and feelings, that you want to share, across to a someone special. It would be seasonal greetings or greetings from Petersburg, and perhaps you will commit pen to paper and express something more...

Perhaps someone would think that in the 21st century there is no need to send letters to each other, because there is a variety of more rapid means of communication: phone, social networks, Skype and others. However, remember how many times a day we log in social networks and how many countless calls we make. And how many times did you receive a real letter with a warm message? There is a special romantic spirit in paper letters, both in sending and in receiving, to the same extent. This is a special ritual, which you can join at the Saint Petersburg General Post Office.

Address: 9, Pochtamptskaya ulitsa

MORE IDEAS?

You can always find some new ideas at the official city tourist portal:

www.visit-petersburg.ru

Thematic routes, information about museums and different parts of the Saint Petersburg, city events and local news.

Need some help?

If you are faced with some difficulties, while walking around the city, we will be glad to help you.

Information pavilions are located at the following addresses:

- 25, Millionnaya ulitsa;
- 14, Sadovaya ulitsa;
- 37, Sadovaya ulitsa;
- Pavilion at the Palace Square;
- Pavilion on St. Isaac's Square;
- Pavilion at Rastrelli Square;
- Pavilion near the Peter and Paul Fortress;
- Pavilion on the Vosstaniya Square;
- Information desks at the Pulkovo airport;
- Pavilion at the terminal of Passenger Port "Marine Facade";
- Information desk at Outlet Village Pulkovo.

PLACE FOR CONFESSIONS

AFTERWORD...

Saint-Petersburg was founded in 1703,
it is situated at 59 degrees north latitude.
The period from May to July is called the «White nights».
At that time the length of the day is nearly 19 hours,
the night does not get dark.
The city has suffered from frequent floods.
The most destroying flood occurred in 1824.
Up until recently, the Peter and Paul cathedral
was the highest building in the city, its height is 122,5 meters.
Saint Petersburg will remain in your heart forever.
I love you, my Saint Petersburg.





Free city mobile guide

Visit Petersburg

