



St. Petersburg, Russia

St.Petersburg lies around 400 miles to the northwest of Moscow. Nestled on the Neva River, spreads out from its banks and across the series of island that lie within the river delta.

With a wealth of _____ palaces, _____ cathedrals and _____ gardens, St.Petersburg is truly Russia's _____ city. Its _____ architecture and _____ canals were born from the _____ ambition of Peter The Great early in 18th century and progressively gilded by generations of Russian royalty. Over the centuries, the dynasty sought to create a city to rival the _____ cities of Europe, and as you step onto the _____ streets here, you'll discover they succeeded.

Most visitors start their adventures right in the heart of _____ St.Petersburg. Palace Square is dominated by the Alexander Column and is home to the Winter Palace. This _____ palace is a legacy to Catherine The Great and was designed to reflect the might and power of Imperial Russia.

Experience some of the country's most _____ architecture, by strolling along Nevsky Prospect, the city's _____ avenue.

During St.Petersburg construction, Peter The Great banned the use of stone elsewhere in Russia so wealth and talent poured into the city.

Visit the Church of Savior on the Spilled Blood, with its _____ mosaics, and Kazan Cathedral, another _____ gem. Further along the river is St.Isaac's Cathedral, whose gold plated dome has been glittering under Russia's sun for more than 100 years. Climb to the top for _____ views over the city.

St.Petersburg was also _____ strategically as it gave Russia a _____ gateway to the Baltic Sea. Admire the _____ spire of the Admiralty building where more than 1000 tradesmen toiled around the clock to create Russia's first warships.

Just across the river is The Peter and Paul Fortress, St.Petersburg _____ citadel. The cathedral here is the _____ church in the city and the final resting place of many Russian Emperors and Empresses. The days of Imperial Russia may be over by the echoes of treachery and intrigue still resonate in regal estates all over the city.

Take a hydrofoil to the _____ Peterhof Palace and Gardens complex which was created to rival the Palace of Versailles in France. Stand before the _____ waters of the Great Cascade, a triumph of engineering with more than 60 fountains running entirely without pumps.

To the South East of the city is the Catherine Palace, its roof gilded with more than 100 kilograms of gold.

Back in the heart of the city, visit the Summer Palace and Gardens. Imagine the _____ balls that were once held here and see where Tsar Peter planned the _____ canal system that spreads throughout the city's many islands. These _____ waterways, crossed by over 300 bridges, are the _____ compliment to the city's soaring spires. As the sun sets, take a canal cruise to discover the romance of St.Petersburg at night. Pass through a network of draw-bridges on a journey that shows the _____ scale of Peter The Great's vision.

_____, opulent and _____, St.Petersburg is a glittering testament to Russia's _____ history and the celebration of the power of one man's dream.