

St Petersburg, Russia

Port information

Currency. The currency in St Petersburg is Rouble . Foreign exchange is available from reception on-board on Deck 4. Major credit & debit cards are widely accepted.	Language The language spoken in St Petersburg is Russian
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Getting around

Distance to town centre.

The Thomson Celebration will dock at Marine Facade passenger port.

To be able to leave the terminal and go into St. Petersburg you need to have a valid visa.

We strongly suggest you join us on tour (Will therefore include on a ship/tour visa).

There are no sites to see in the port itself. To make the most of your time ashore and due to the visa requirements we strongly recommend you join us on excursion.

Main Highlights.

Why not join us on tour and see the following highlights...

The city of St. Petersburg is a city that is on the bucket list of many. It simply is a city you have to have visited at least once in a lifetime. It is the former capital of the grand and glorious empire that stretches half way around the world. This city of 4.6 million inhabitants was built with the pure intention to be "window to the west". In 1703 Peter the Great would kick off a monumental change in history. He would start a project of building a city in which western ideas could flow into Russia. It would take him 18 years and countless lives to be able to do it. Up till that point in history there was no battle in time that had cost as many lives as it would to build St. Petersburg. Therefore St. Petersburg is nicknamed the city of bones. This window to Europe would within a decade become such an important city that Peter decided to change it into the capital of Russia. What Peter the Great started is something that the wife of his grandson would finish. Catherine the Great is one of the most captivating women to ever walk this earth. She plotted her way to the top of the Russian Empire and claimed the Russian throne for 34 years. Under her rule St. Petersburg would undergo a building boom unlike Russia has ever seen. St. Petersburg is a beautiful and fascinating destination and also one of the most intriguing destinations in Europe. Its stories about this empire never fail to amaze anybody especially because the evidence of all this history is standing before you. St. Petersburg might just be the most interesting architectural city in the world.

The main city square of St. Petersburg and of the former Russian Empire is **Palace Square**. In the middle you will find the Alexander Column. This monument commemorates the Russian victory in the war against Napoleon.

Main Highlights

The **State Hermitage Museum** is simply something you have to see on a visit to St. Petersburg. It is a collection that was started by Catherine the Great in 1764. It started with 300 pieces she received from Johann Ernst Gotzkowsky and nowadays the collection counts over 3 million pieces. That means that in 2,5 century 3 million pieces of art from all over the world have been collected and are now so proudly on display in the museum. Not to worry, not every piece is on display in the Winter Palace, but take into account you need several hours to explore the museum.

When tsar Alexander II of Russia was assassinated at this sight his son Alexander III decided he would build something magnificent so his father would be remembered. The **Church on Spilled Blood** was made on the donations by the Imperial family and by private individuals. The project was completed in 1907. The result is one of the most recognizable buildings in the world. The exterior is built in classic Russian style and the interior is completely covered with golden mosaics.

There are hundreds of palaces in St. Petersburg. Since you have limited time you have to choose. **Catherine's palace and Peterhof** are without doubt the most elaborate of all. Peterhof has a spectacular interior, but it is the gardens and fountains that make this one unique. From port it is 40 km south west. You can take a taxi or take the hydrofoil from the Winter Palace in the city centre. **Peter and Paul fortress** is one of the most famous landmarks of St. Petersburg. When Peter the Great started to build St. Petersburg in 1703 this is the first structure he built. Thousands died in building it, but the result is still standing tall today. A golden tower watching over the city of St. Petersburg. When you visit the fort make sure to go into the cathedral as this is the burial place of many of Russians tsars.

St. Isaac's Cathedral is one of the largest cathedrals in Russia has a gigantic golden dome that can be Spotted from all over the city. St. Isaac's cathedral was originally the city's main church that was built in the early 19th century. Make sure to go inside. It has an interesting museum about its construction and development and the interior is striking.

Essential information

Tourist information: There is a tourist information in the city centre. You can find it right next to the Winter Palace.

Shopping: The typical souvenir from anywhere in Russia is the Matryoshka nesting doll, which opens up to reveal ever-smaller dolls.