

ST. PETERSBURG

SAINT-PETERSBURG IS OFTEN CALLED A NORTHERN CAPITAL OF RUSSIA. AND IT IS RECOGNIZED AS A CITY OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE BY THE RUSSIAN CONSTITUTION. THERE ARE ONLY TWO CITIES OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IN RUSSIA – SAINT-PETERSBURG AND OF COURSE MOSCOW. NO DOUBT SAINT-PETERSBURG DESERVES SUCH A STATUS.




THE NAME OF THE CITY CHANGED SEVERAL TIMES. AT FIRST THE CITY WAS CALLED SAINT-PETERSBURG BUT IT WAS RENAMED TO PETROGRAD IN 1914. THEN IN 1924 JUST AFTER THE DEATH OF LENIN THE CITY WAS GIVEN THE NAME LENINGRAD. IN 1991 THE OLD NAME SAINT-PETERSBURG WAS GIVEN BACK TO THE CITY.



THE CITY WAS FOUNDED BY PETER I IN 1703. ITS FOUNDATION STARTED WITH BUILDING OF THE FORTRESS OF PETER AND PAVEL WHICH IS NOW CALLED PETROPAVLOVSKAYA FORTRESS. BUT THE FORTRESS WAS NEVER USED IN MILITARY AIMS. IT IS MORE FAMOUS AS THE MAIN PRISON OF PETER'S TIMES. THEY GUIDE SOME EXCURSIONS INSIDE THE FORTRESS NOW AND YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE PRISON CELLS OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY. THE HISTORY OF THE CITY'S FOUNDATION IS CONNECTED WITH LOTS OF VICTIMS. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE GAVE THEIR LIVES BUILDING SAINT-PETERSBURG. THE CITY WAS BUILT VERY QUICKLY AND THE BUILDING WAS COMPLICATED WITH LOCAL AREA PECULIARITIES. IN FACT PETERSBURG IS SITUATED ON WATER. SOME PEOPLE EVEN COMPARE IT WITH VENICE BUT SUCH A COMPARISON IS NOT VERY RIGHT.





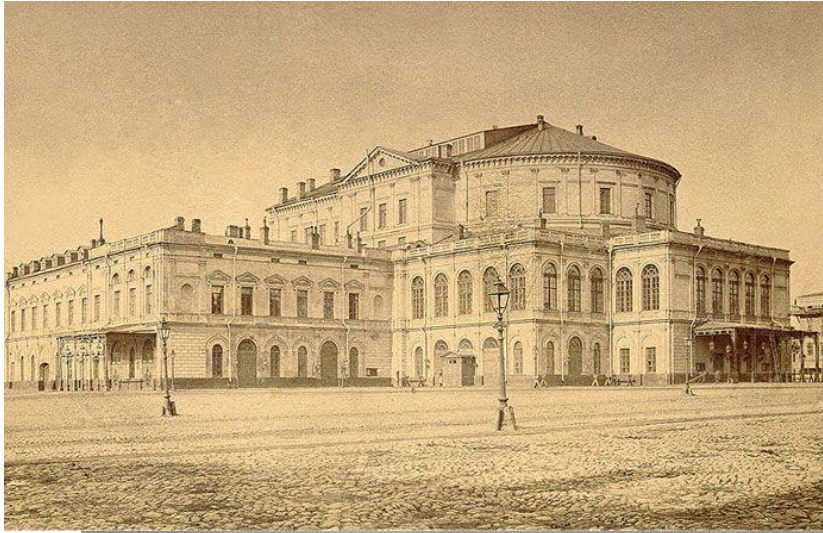


IN THE CULTURAL CAPITAL SAINT-PETERSBURG YOU'LL FIND A LOT OF MUSEUMS, MONUMENTS AND CATHEDRALS. THE MOST FAMOUS MUSEUM OF WORLD IMPORTANCE IS OF COURSE THE HERMITAGE. THE WORKS OF ARTS COLLECTION OF THE HERMITAGE WAS STARTED WITH EKATERINA'S PURCHASE OF 225 PICTURES MADE BY MASTERS FROM WESTERN EUROPE. TODAY THE MUSEUM HAS ABOUT THREE MILLION EXHIBITS. JUST IMAGINE! YOU'LL NEED 15 YEARS TO SEE ALL THE EXHIBITS OF THE HERMITAGE HAVING A MINUTE LOOKING AT EACH OF THEM AND SPENDING 8 HOURS A DAY ON THAT. BESIDES EACH HALL ITSELF IS A WORK OF ART. MALACHITE, GEORGE AND PETER HALLS ARE VERY POPULAR AMONG TOURISTS



IN FRONT OF THE WINTER PALACE – THE HERMITAGE BUILDING THERE'S A PALACE SQUARE. YOU CAN HAVE A NICE WALK ON IT. BUT DON'T STAY HERE FOR LONG BECAUSE THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER PLACES WHICH ARE WORTH VISITING IN SAINT-PETERSBURG. BUT I THINK THAT EACH TOURIST MUST LEAVE SOME TIME JUST FOR WALKING ON THE STREETS OF THE CULTURAL CAPITAL, FEELING THE CITY ATMOSPHERE, DIVING TO ITS RICH HISTORY. YOU CAN ALSO WALK IN BEAUTIFUL GARDENS AND PARKS, FOR EXAMPLE TO GO TO THE QUIET AND MYSTERIOUS SUMMER GARDEN

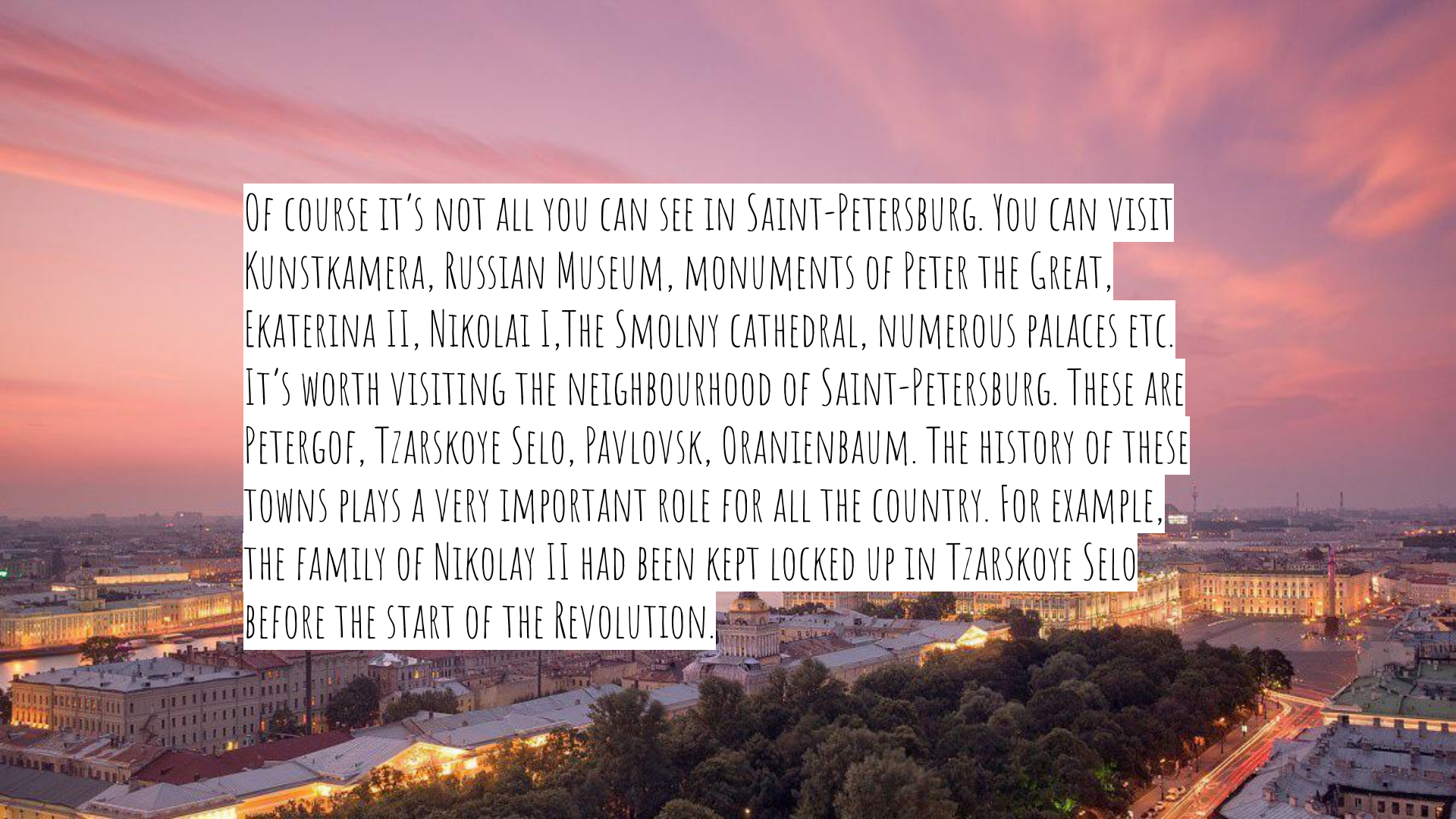




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THE THEATRES OF SAINT-PETERSBURG ARE ALSO VERY FAMOUS ALL OVER THE WORLD. YOU'D BETTER BOOK THE TICKETS BECAUSE THERE ARE ALWAYS LOTS OF PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THEATRE. THE MARYNSKY THEATRE IS MAGNIFICENT. HERE YOU CAN TAKE IN THE PLEASURE OF WONDERFUL OPERA AND UNFORGETTABLE BALLET. LOTS OF REALLY GREAT PEOPLE WORKED AND STILL WORK IN THE MARYNSKY THEATRE. AND MAGNIFICENT FURNITURE WILL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE TIMES OF PETER I AND EKATERINA II.

An aerial photograph of Saint-Petersburg, Russia, taken during sunset. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and purples. The city's architecture is visible, with many buildings illuminated by warm lights. A large green park area is prominent in the foreground. A white text box is overlaid on the image, containing a paragraph of text.

OF COURSE IT'S NOT ALL YOU CAN SEE IN SAINT-PETERSBURG. YOU CAN VISIT KUNSTKAMERA, RUSSIAN MUSEUM, MONUMENTS OF PETER THE GREAT, EKATERINA II, NIKOLAI I, THE SMOLNY CATHEDRAL, NUMEROUS PALACES ETC. IT'S WORTH VISITING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF SAINT-PETERSBURG. THESE ARE PETERGOF, TZARSKOYE SELO, PAVLOVSK, ORANIENBAUM. THE HISTORY OF THESE TOWNS PLAYS A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE FOR ALL THE COUNTRY. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FAMILY OF NIKOLAY II HAD BEEN KEPT LOCKED UP IN TZARSKOYE SELO BEFORE THE START OF THE REVOLUTION.





YOU CAN FALL IN LOVE WITH SAINT-PETERSBURG. HAVING COME TO THIS CITY ONCE YOU WANT TO COME BACK HERE AGAIN AND AGAIN. YOU'LL ESPECIALLY LIKE IT IF YOU VISIT SAINT-PETERSBURG AT THE END OF MAY OR AT THE START OF JUNE. IT'S RIGHT THE TIME OF WHITE NIGHT HERE. THAT MEANS IT'S NOT DARK AT NIGHT. SUCH A GEOGRAPHICAL SINGULARITY. AND BESIDES THE WEATHER HERE IS VERY WARM AND SUNNY IN THIS PERIOD OF TIME

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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