

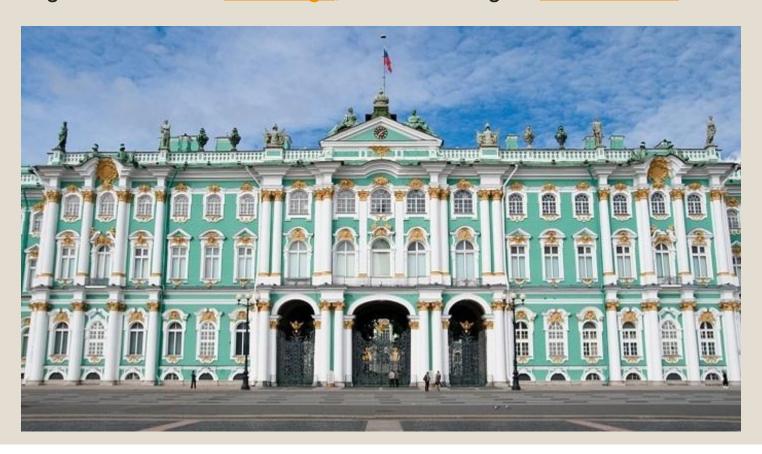
### Cultural Capital

Saint Petersburg is often considered Russia's cultural capital. The <u>Historic Centre of Saint</u>
<u>Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments</u> constitute a <u>UNESCO World Heritage Site</u>.



# Hermitage

• Saint Petersburg is home to the <u>Hermitage</u>, one of the largest <u>art museums</u> in the world.



# Geofraphy

The <u>Neva River</u> flows through much of the centre of the city. Left – the <u>Spit of Vasilievsky Island</u>,
center – <u>River Neva</u>, <u>Peter and Paul Fortress</u> and <u>Trinity Bridge</u>, right – <u>Palace</u>
<u>Embankment</u> with the <u>Winter Palace</u>



## History

• At the end of the 17th century, Peter the Great, who was interested in seafaring and maritime affairs, wanted Russia to gain a seaport to trade with the rest of Europe.



• The city was built by <u>conscripted peasants</u> from all over Russia; a number of Swedish <u>prisoners</u> <u>of war</u>were also involved in some years under the supervision of <u>Alexander Menshikov</u>.



#### Dramatic Theatre.

 St Petersuburg has a number of dramatic theatres and drama schools. These include the Student Theatre on Mokhovaya street.



