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LOOK DIE BILDAGENTUR FOTOGRAFEN GMBH / ALAMY ©



IVANO, ARIK / DEIMASTIME ©

Left: Water Avenue,
Grand Palace (p141)

Above: Winter Palace,
the Hermitage (p44)

Right: Church on the
Spilled Blood (p64)



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St Isaac's Cathedral (p103)

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- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jewish
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- Museum/Gallery
- Ruin
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo
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- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

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- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour Detour
- Path

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- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Geographic

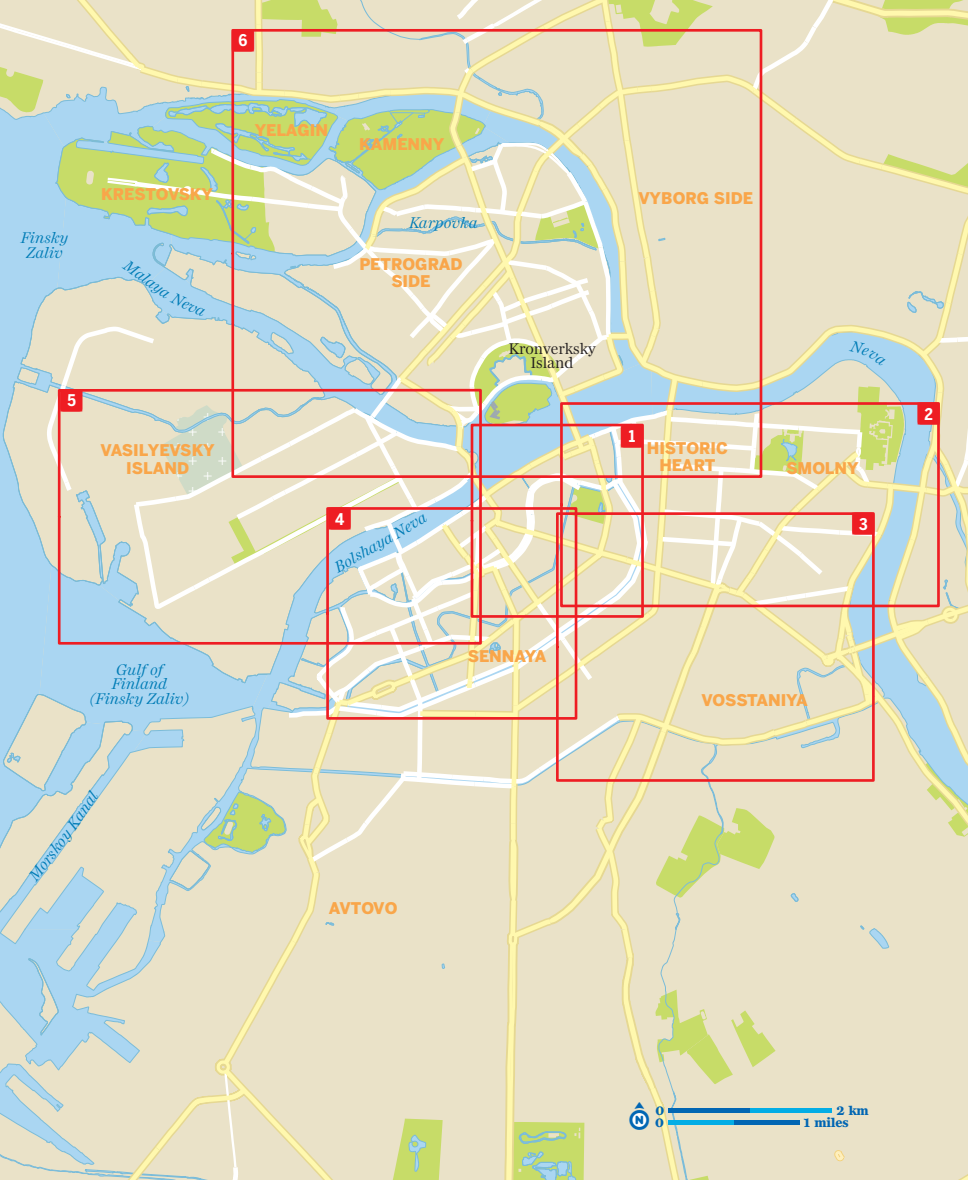
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
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- River/Creek
- Intermittent River
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- Cemetery (Other)
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- Sportsground
- Sight (Building)
- Top Sight (Building)



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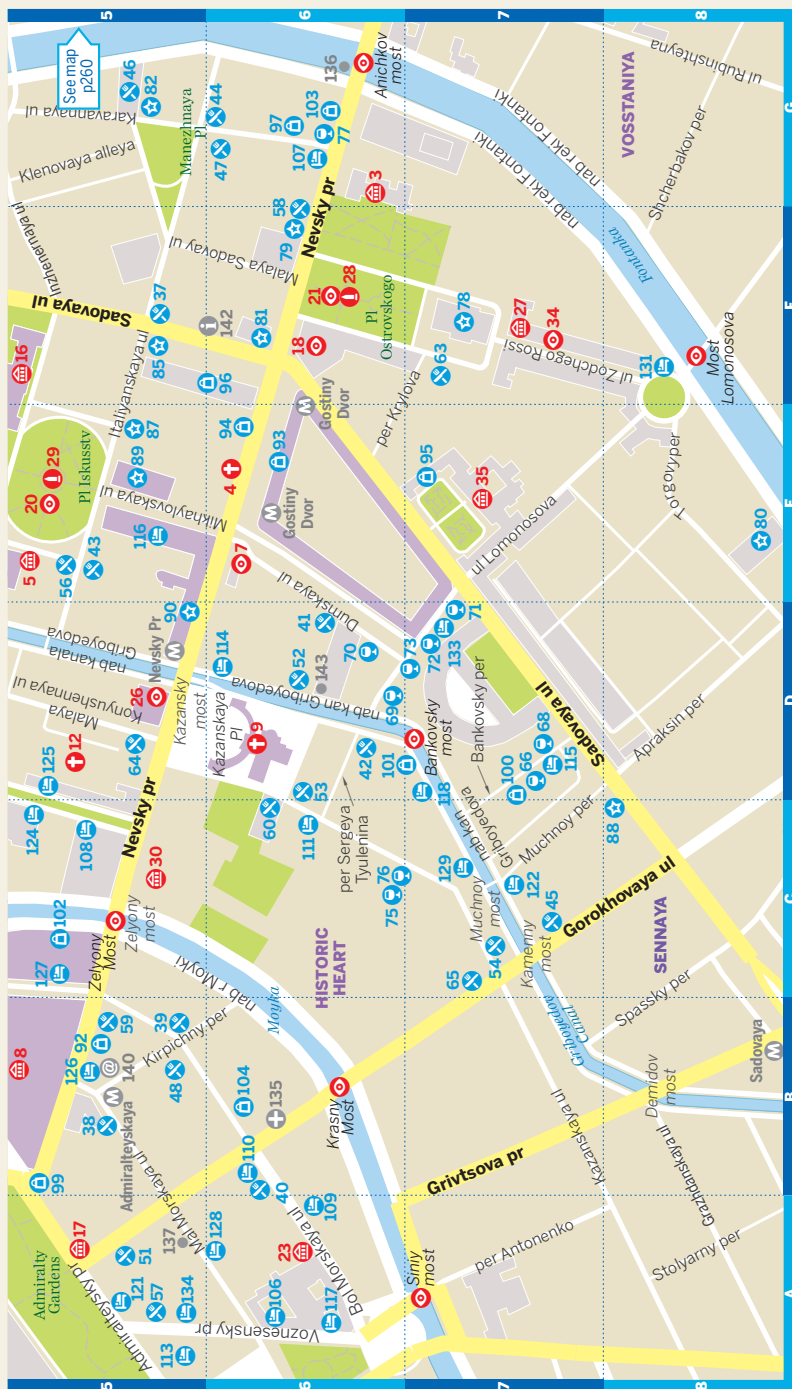
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HISTORIC HEART



HISTORIC HEART

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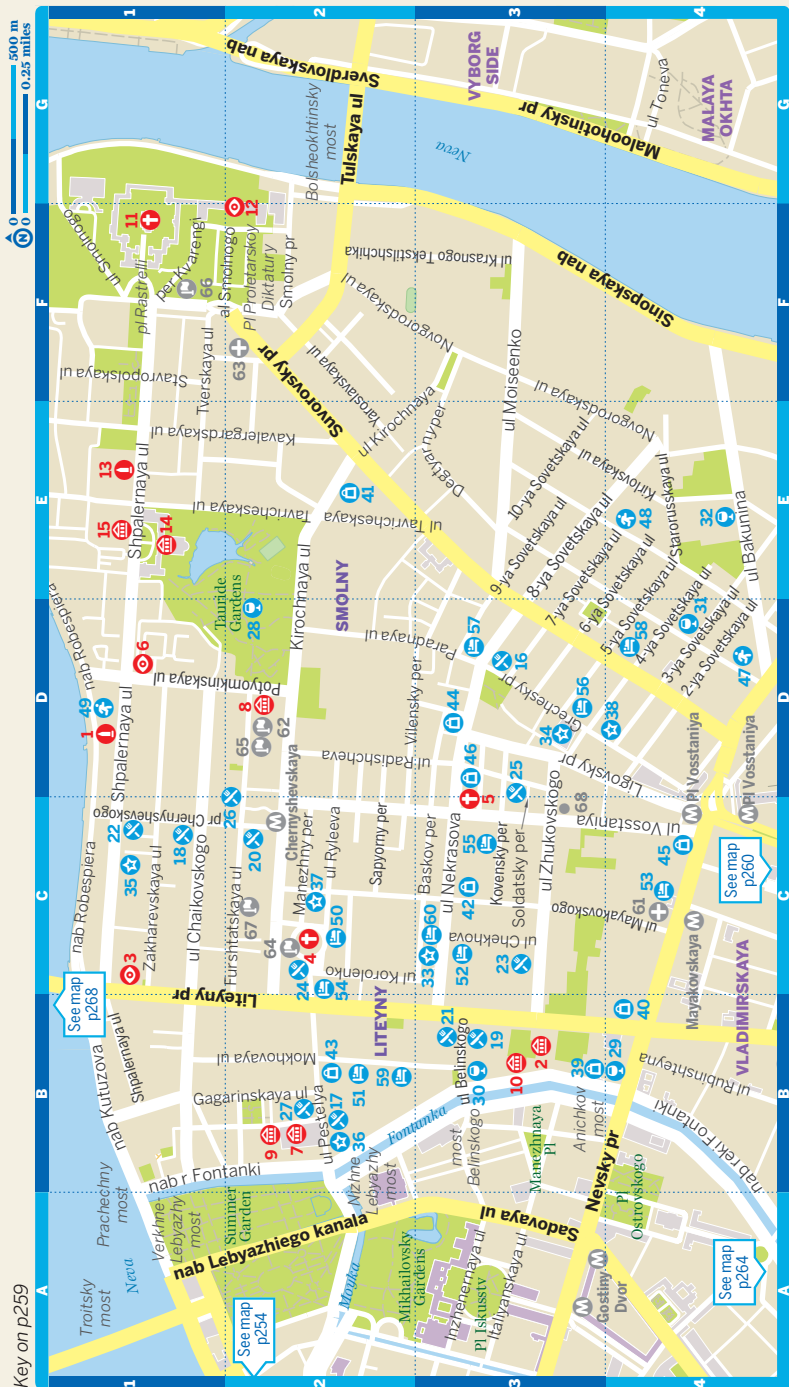
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LITEYNY & SMOLNY

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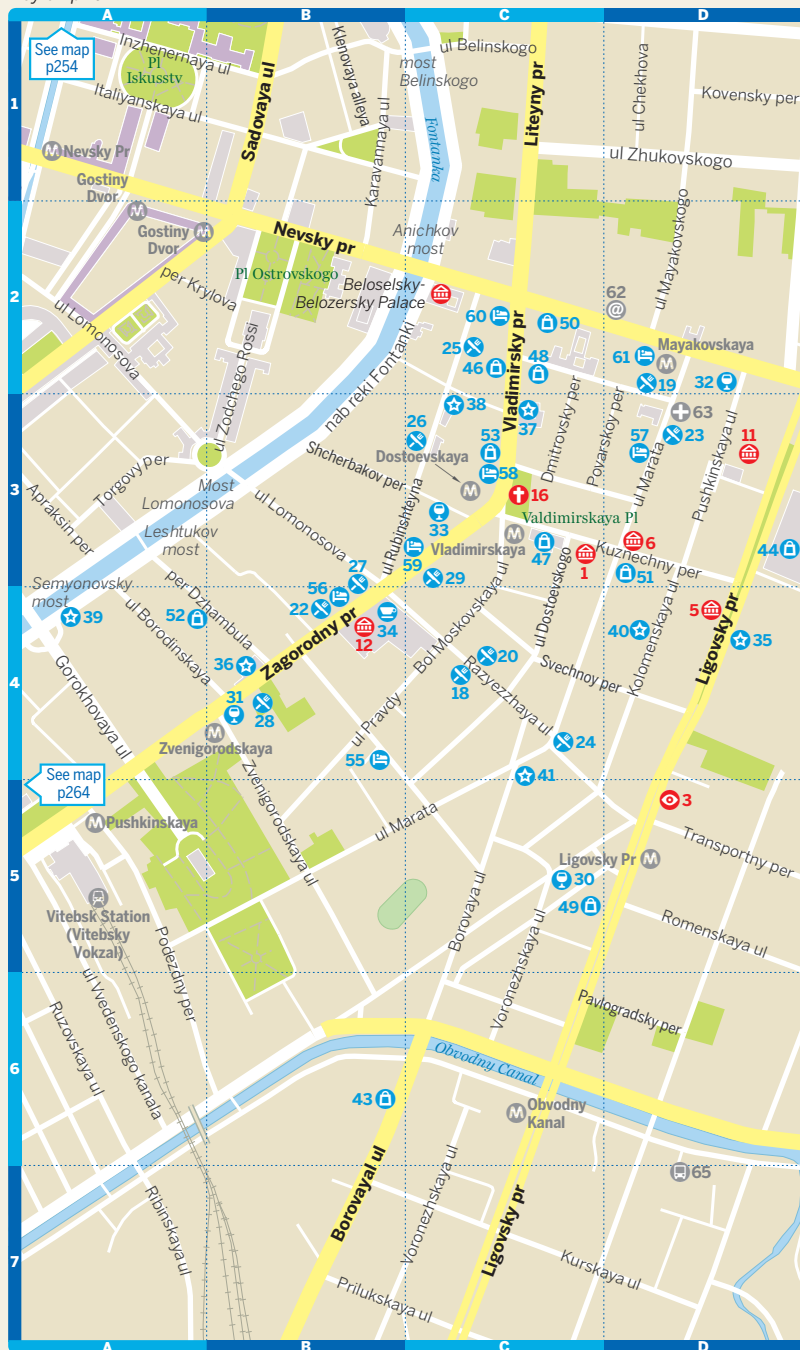
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VLADIMIRSKAYA & VOSSTANIYA





VLADIMIRSKAYA & VOSSTANIYA *Map on p260* **Top Sights****(p83)**

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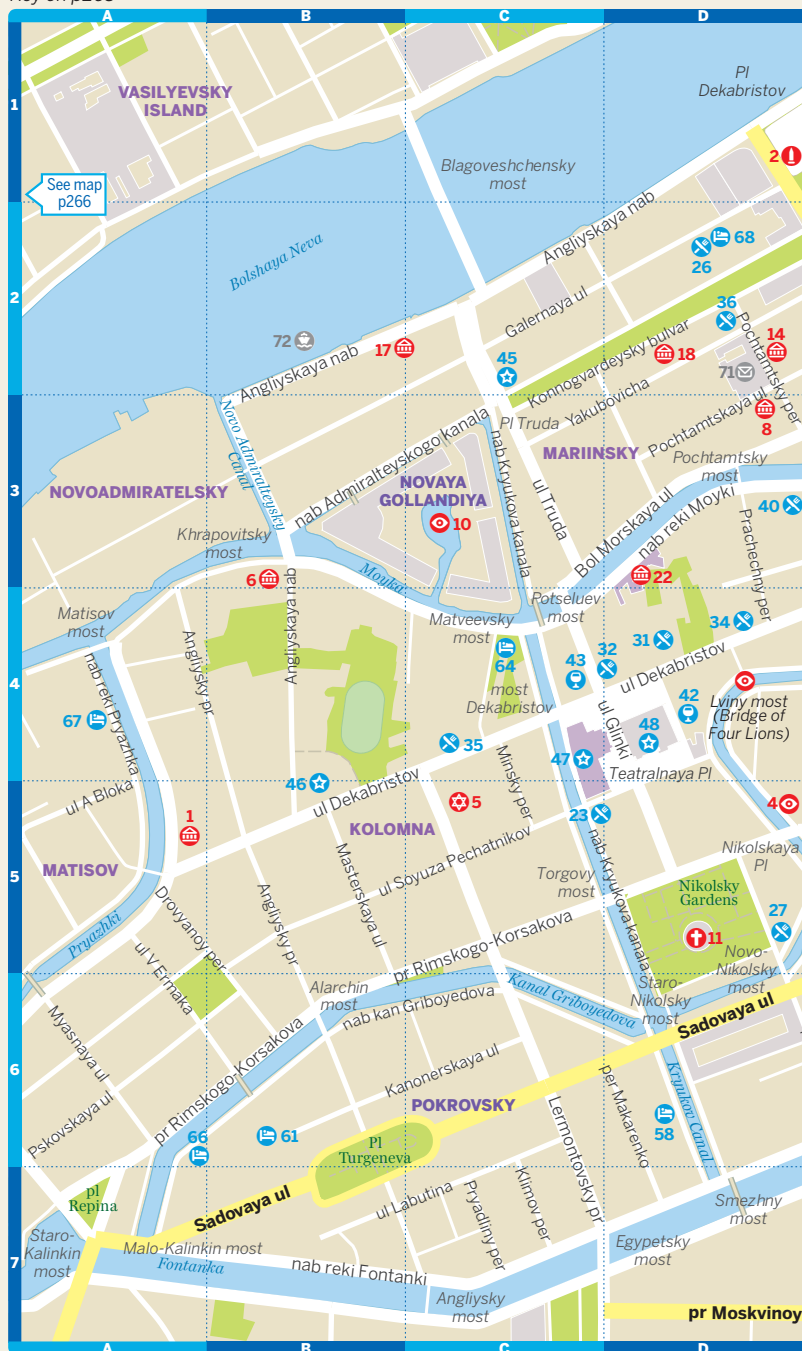
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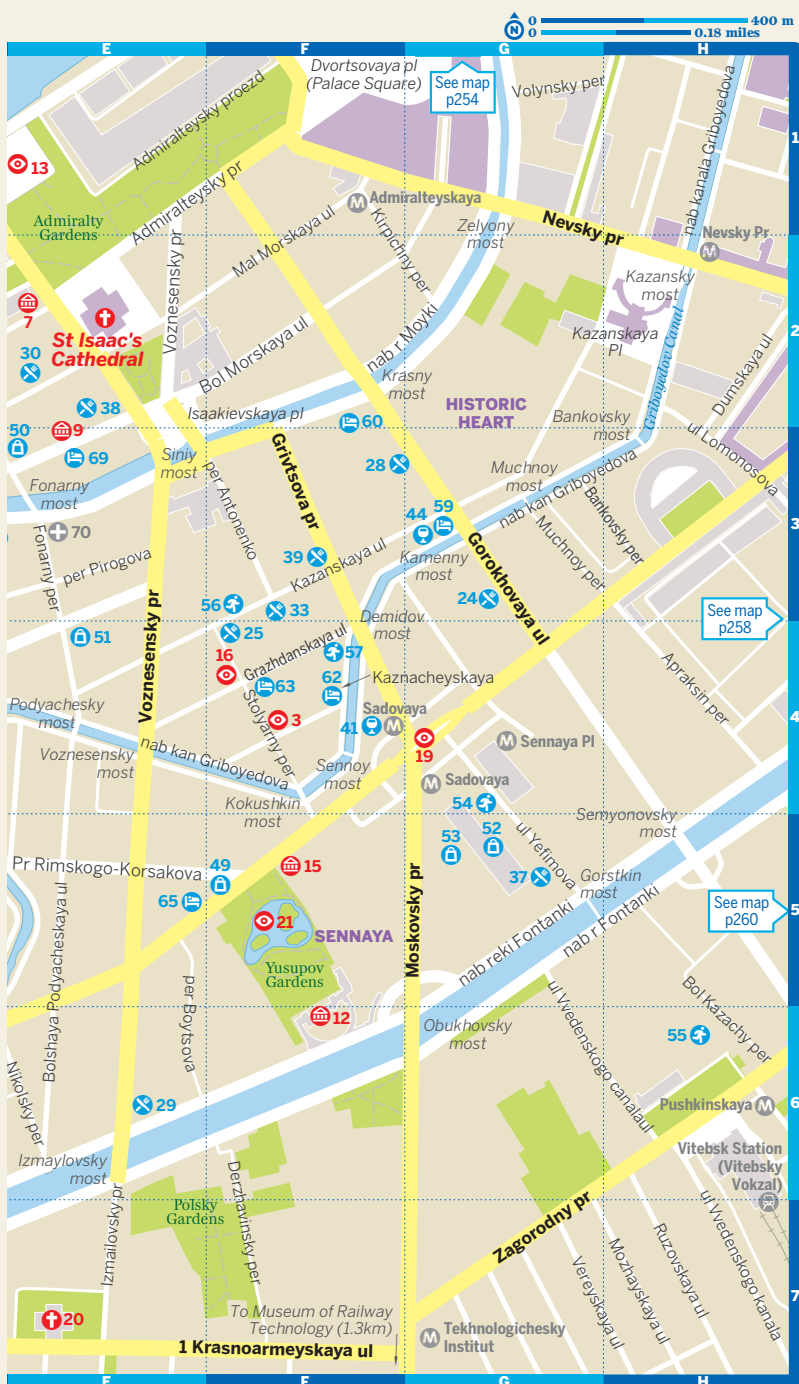
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Legend

- Metro Line 1
- Metro Line 2
- Metro Line 3
- Metro Line 4
- Metro Line 5
- Interchange Metro Station
- Points where above-ground rail meets with Metro
- Airport connection



Our Story

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

Our Writers



Tom Masters

Coordinating Author Tom first came to St Petersburg in 1996 while studying Russian at the School of Slavonic & East European Studies, part of the University of London. He loved the city so much that he came back after graduating and worked as a writer and editor at the *St Petersburg Times*. Since then he's been based in London and Berlin, but returns regularly to Piter to take on documentary work and write freelance articles and Lonely Planet guides.

Read more about Tom at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/tommasters

Simon Richmond

Veliky Novgorod After studying Russian history and politics as part of his university degree, Simon's first visit to the country was in 1994 when he wandered goggle-eyed around gorgeous St Petersburg, and peeked at Lenin's mummified corpse in Red Square. He's since travelled the breadth of the nation from Kamchatka in the far east to Kaliningrad in the far west, stopping off at many points between. An award-winning writer and photographer, Simon is the coauthor of Lonely Planet's *Trans-Siberian Railway* editions 1, 2 and 3; *Russia* editions 3, 5 and 6; and many other titles for the company, ranging from Cape Town to Korea.

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Top Itineraries

Day One

Historic Heart (p42)

 Begin your first day in St Petersburg by taking a stroll down Nevsky pr, the city's vast central avenue that connects the Hermitage to the Alexander Nevsky Lavra at the far end. From the Nevsky Prospekt metro station, drop into the Church on the Spilled Blood, the Kazan Cathedral and end up at the dazzling ensemble of Palace Square, the Winter Palace and the General Staff Building.



Lunch Where better to eat than on the eponymous terrace of Terrassa (p73).

Sennaya & Kolomna (p101)

 Wander down the Moyka to **St Isaac's Cathedral**, visit the astonishingly elaborate interiors and then climb to the top of the dome for superb views of the city. Continue down the Moyka to **Yusupov Palace** and the **Mariinsky Theatre**, ending up at the beautiful sky-blue **Nikolsky Cathedral**. Drop into **Entrée** for coffee and cake.



Dinner Book ahead for gorgeous Teplo (p111).

Historic Heart (p42)

 If it's a weekend, head down to **Dumskaya ul** for a raucous time with locals who like to congregate here for drinking, dancing and general debauchery. For something a little more elegant, have a cocktail at the **Grand Hotel Europe**.

Day Two

Historic Heart (p42)

 After a hearty breakfast, head to the **Hermitage** with a packed lunch in hand, and get ready for a day of artistic exhilaration. Choose the parts of the collection you want to see, though leave some room for on-the-spot decision making – the exhibition is so enormous that you'll inevitably discover new painters and eras you weren't planning on seeing. As well as the art, don't miss the staterooms, and allow yourself plenty of rest stops to avoid exhaustion.



Lunch Bring your own sandwich or face the expensive Hermitage cafe.

Historic Heart (p42)

 You may still want to spend a few hours in the museum and make the most of your day ticket. After lunch, wander to the **Mars Field** or through the **Mikhailovsky Gardens** before picking up a **sightseeing cruise** around the canals – the best way to sightsee without having to do any more walking!



Dinner Enjoy Italian at Park Giuseppe (p73).

Sennaya & Kolomna (p101)

 If you've booked ahead, dress up to spend the evening watching a ballet from the classical repertoire of the **Mariinsky Theatre**. Even if you haven't booked, it's usually quite possible to do so last minute in one of the other theatres in town. For a post-Mariinsky drink, head to **Hundertwasser Bar**.

Day Three

Petrograd & Vyborg Sides (p124)

 Begin day three with a trip to the beautiful Petrograd Side. Start with a visit to the **Peter and Paul Fortress** to see where the city began, wander past the **mosque** and perhaps drop in to see either **Peter's Cabin** or the very interesting **Museum of Political History**. Wander down **Kamennostrovsky pr** to take in the Style Moderne architecture.



Lunch Enjoy a relaxed and stylish lunch at Mesto (p135).

Vasilyevsky Island (p116)

 After lunch, walk across to Vasilyevsky Island, and wander the historic ensemble around the **Strelka**. Visit the fascinating **Kunstkamera**, Peter the Great's personal cabinet of curiosities, and drop in to the very interesting **Menshikov Palace** to see the oldest standing palace in the city. If you enjoy contemporary art, continue on to the excellent **Erarta Museum of Contemporary Art**, which is definitely worth the hassle of a *marshrutka* ride to get to.



Dinner Dine in understated Russian elegance at Restoran (p122).

Smolny & Vosstaniya (p81)

 Head south to happening Vosstaniya to gallery-, bar- and gig-hop around **Ligovsky pr**. See some new artwork at **Loft Project ETAGI**, enjoy a drink in the sand and some table football at **Dyuni** or see some live music at underground club **Zoccolo**.

Day Four

Day Trips from St Petersburg (p140)

 Head out of the city early to spend the day in tsarist opulence. Go first to **Tsarskoe Selo** in order to visit the **Catherine Palace** during its opening hours for individuals (as opposed to groups) and have a walk in the gardens. If you're still wanting more, **Pavlovsk** is a quick bus ride away and the park is even wilder and more beautiful.



Lunch Back in town, head to Garçon (p72) on Kanal Griboyedov.

Historic Heart (p42)

 After lunch, head for the **Russian Museum**, the perfect complement to the Hermitage. This spectacular (and far more manageable) museum showcases seven centuries of Russian art from church icons to the avant-garde. Buy the full ticket and add on the **Stroganov Palace**, **Marble Palace** and **Mikhailovskiy Castle** for some fabulous interiors too.



Dinner Dine with the cool kids at fabulous Dom Beat (p91).

Smolny & Vosstaniya (p81)

 Enjoy the bars around ul Rubinshcheyna – have a drink at **Terminal Bar**, then perhaps see some live bands at **Manhattan**. For more music, have a Soviet-era dance at **Petrovich**, or head to alternative favourite **Griboyedov** for some electronic music or **Kitaysky Lyotchik Dzha Dao** for some guitar-based sounds.

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