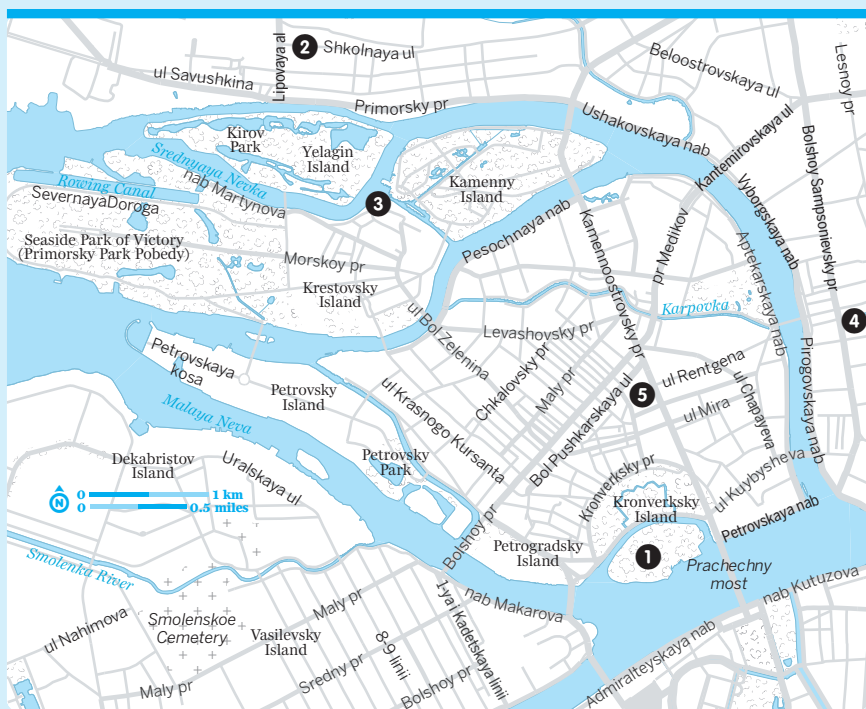


Petrograd & Vyborg Sides

PETROGRAD SIDE | VYBORG SIDE

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 See the final resting place of the Romanovs, climb the bell tower for stunning views and enjoy the large range of museums and exhibits scattered around the **Peter and Paul Fortress** (p126).
- 2 If the Hermitage left you wanting more, visit the state-of-the-art **Hermitage Storage Facility** (p132).
- 3 Spend a day relaxing on the charming, wooded **Kirovsky Islands** (p131) – perfect for picnicking, boating and sunbathing.
- 4 Make a detour to the historic **Sampsonievsky Cathedral** (p134) for one of the city's most beautiful church interiors.
- 5 See how the Soviet elite really lived at the markedly unproletarian apartment that now houses the **Kirov Museum** (p130).



For more detail of this area, see Map p268 →

Explore: Petrograd & Vyborg Sides

The Petrograd Side, where Peter's city was first founded and from where it grew into the modern city it is today, is a fascinating place packed with historical sites and stunning Style Moderne architecture. It includes little Zayachy Island, home to the Peter and Paul Fortress, St Petersburg's most historic complex, as well as the three Kirovsky Islands – Yelagin, Krestovsky and Kamenny – three charming, wooded Neva delta islands that function today as the city's biggest park.

The enormous Vyborg Side encompasses all the land on the right bank of the Neva River, and is a sprawling, industrial area running from Okhta, across the river from the Alexander Nevsky Monastery all the way out to the Gulf of Finland. Its centre, if the diffuse area can even be said to have one, is around the Finland Station. The Vyborg Side has been consistently in the news recently, due to the controversial plans to build a 400m-high skyscraper here.

Local Life

- ➔ **Parks** If the weather's good, join the locals as they take to the Kirovsky Islands for fairground rides, boating, sunbathing and cycling through the woods – it's a total escape from the city just three metro stops from the city centre.
- ➔ **Free Art** Come and see the Hermitage Storage Facility for free on the first Thursday of the month. Even outside of this time it's a great bargain at R60.
- ➔ **Sunbathe Standing** A must for people watching as much as tanning, join the crowds on the beach at Zayachy Island where the serious sunbathers tan standing up.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Metro** The Petrograd Side is served by Gorkovskaya and Petrogradskaya on Line 2, and by Sportivnaya, Chkalovskaya and Krestovsky Ostrov on Line 5. The Vyborg Side has some 20 metro stations on it, mainly serving far-flung residential areas.
- ➔ **Bus** Bus 10 runs from the Vyborg Side at Chernaya Rechka, down Bolshoy pr on the Petrograd Side and on into the Historic Heart.
- ➔ **Marshrutka** *Marshrutka* 346 runs the length of Bolshoy pr and then turns left onto Kamennooostrovsky pr and on to the Vyborg Side.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Don't miss the Petrograd Side or Vyborg Side if you'd like to see the real St Petersburg – a far cry from the uniform beauty of the historic heart. The Petrograd Side is a good place to see the everyday life of the middle classes in the city and, while the Vyborg Side around pl Lenina is a vision of a post-industrial nightmare, your average Joes live in the Soviet housing estates further along the metro line – travel to the end of lines 1 or 2 and you'll see real city life.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Mesto (p135)
- ➔ Chekhov (p135)
- ➔ Staraya Derevnnya (p135)
- ➔ Salkhino (p136)
- ➔ Makaronniki (p136)

For reviews, see p135 ➔

Best Parks

- ➔ Yelagin Island (p132)
- ➔ Kamenny Island (p132)
- ➔ Botanical Gardens (p130)
- ➔ Seaside Park of Victory (p132)

For reviews, see p129 ➔

Best Museums

- ➔ Hermitage Storage Facility (p132)
- ➔ The Commandant's House (p127)
- ➔ Kirov Museum (p130)
- ➔ Museum of Political History (p129)

For reviews, see p129 ➔