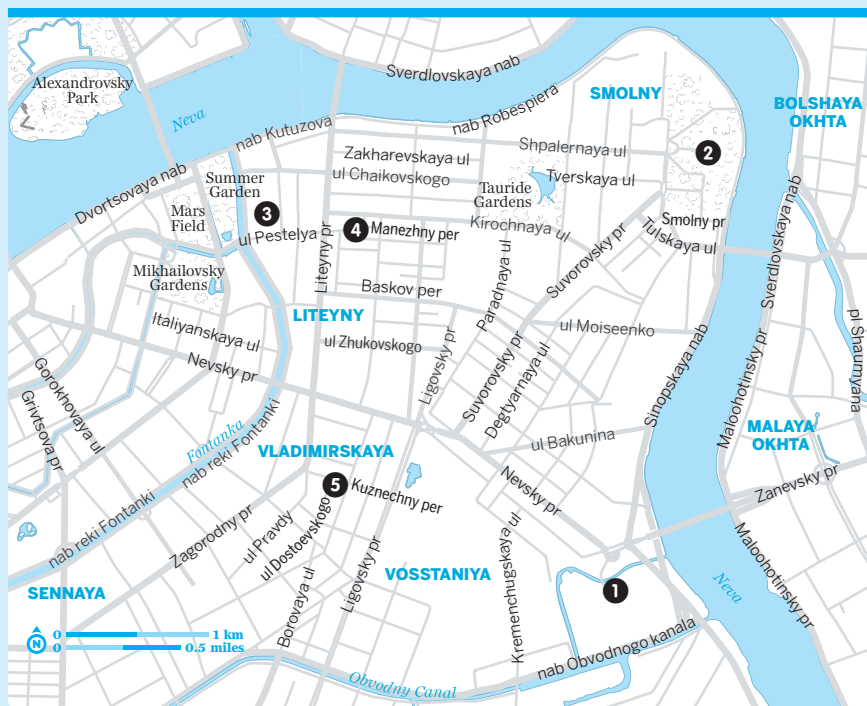


Smolny & Vosstaniya

SMOLNY | LITEYNY | VOSSTANIYA | VLADIMIRSKAYA

Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Explore the beating heart of Orthodox St Petersburg in the complex of churches at the **Alexander Nevsky Monastery** (p83) and see the last resting place of many of Russia's greatest artists in the atmospheric cemeteries.
- 2 Climb the extraordinary baroque spires of the **Smolny Cathedral** (p84) for great views of the city.
- 3 Savour the superb collection of gorgeous objects at the **Museum of Decorative & Applied Arts** (p85).
- 4 Visit **Cathedral of the Transfiguration of Our Saviour** (p84) and **Vladimirsky Cathedral** (p87), the least known but most beautiful churches.
- 5 See the room where Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote *The Brothers Karamazov* at the fascinating **Dostoevsky Museum** (p87).



For more detail of this area, see Map p258 and p260 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Avoid hanging around the entrance to the Moscow Station on pl Vosstaniya. It's a favoured police hangout for document checks and, in some cases, shakedowns. You're unlikely to have problems (if you have your passport with you), but it's just a pain and best avoided.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Istoriya (p89)
- ➔ Bistro Garçon (p92)
- ➔ Kompot Café (p89)
- ➔ Botanika (p89)
- ➔ Dom Beat (p91)

For reviews, see p89 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Dyuni (p94)
- ➔ XXXX (p94)
- ➔ Griboyedov (p94)
- ➔ Terminal Bar (p94)
- ➔ Dom Beat (p91)

For reviews, see p93 ➔

Best Galleries

- ➔ Loft Project ETAGI (p87)
- ➔ Pushkinskaya 10 (p88)
- ➔ Art re.flex (p99)
- ➔ Rizzordi Art Foundation (p88)

For reviews, see p84 ➔

Explore: Smolny & Vosstaniya

This area, bisected by the second half of Nevsky pr, breaks down into four districts: Smolny, Liteyny, Vosstaniya and Vladimirskaia. An extremely varied place, it contains the closest thing St Petersburg has to a creative hub, as well as its political and diplomatic heart.

The Liteyny and Smolny districts sit side-by-side east of the Historic Heart, tucked inside a swooping curve of the Neva River on its left bank. These neighbourhoods take their names from the industries that once dominated this area: *liteyny* means 'foundry' and *smol* means 'tar', although these evocative names hardly capture the atmosphere of these quaint but quiet neighbourhoods today.

On the south side of Nevsky the historic neighbourhood of Vladimirskaia is dominated by the grand, gold-domed cathedral of the same name. This is a busy, commercial area full of shops and several quirky museums.

Nevsky pr continues east to pl Vosstaniya (Uprising Sq), so called because the February Revolution began here in 1917. Although it is a geographically large area, it contains swathes of industrial wasteland, as well as St Petersburg's busiest railway station, Moscow Station (Moskovsky Vokzal). Nevsky pr ends at pl Alexandra Nevskogo, named after the city's patron saint, who defeated the Swedes in the area during the 12th century. On this square stands the ancient and revered Alexander Nevsky Monastery, the oldest monastery in the city.

Local Life

➔ **Creative Kicks** Make the most of being in St Petersburg's most creative area: enjoy an exhibition at Loft Project ETAGI (p87), see a band at Kitaysky Lyotchik Dzhao Da (p95) and buy art at Borey Art Centre (p98).

➔ **Shop Till You Drop** Smolny and Vosstaniya boast two of the city's biggest shopping centres – vast Galeria (p99) and smaller, but equally flashy Nevsky Centre (p99).

➔ **Musical Thrills** See local rock bands perform at Zoccolo (p96), Fish Fabrique (p97) and Dusche (p96), and chill at St Petersburg's two best jazz clubs: JFC (p96) and Red Fox Jazz Café (p96).

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** Accessed by pl Vosstaniya/Mayakovskaya, Vladimirskaia/Dostoevskaya, pl Alexandra Nevskogo, Chernyshevskaya and Ligovsky Prospekt.

➔ **Marshrutka** Handy for getting up or down Nevsky pr in minutes, hundreds of minibuses run this route – check they don't turn off halfway by asking the driver if they go down 'vyes Nyevsky' (all of Nevsky pr).