

Petrograd & Vyborg Sides

PETROGRADSKY ISLAND | KIROVSKY ISLANDS | VYBORG SIDE

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Seeing the graves of the Romanovs, climbing the bell tower for stunning views and enjoying the museums and exhibits scattered around the **Peter & Paul Fortress** (p144).

2 Sneaking a behind-the-scenes look at one of the world's top museums at the

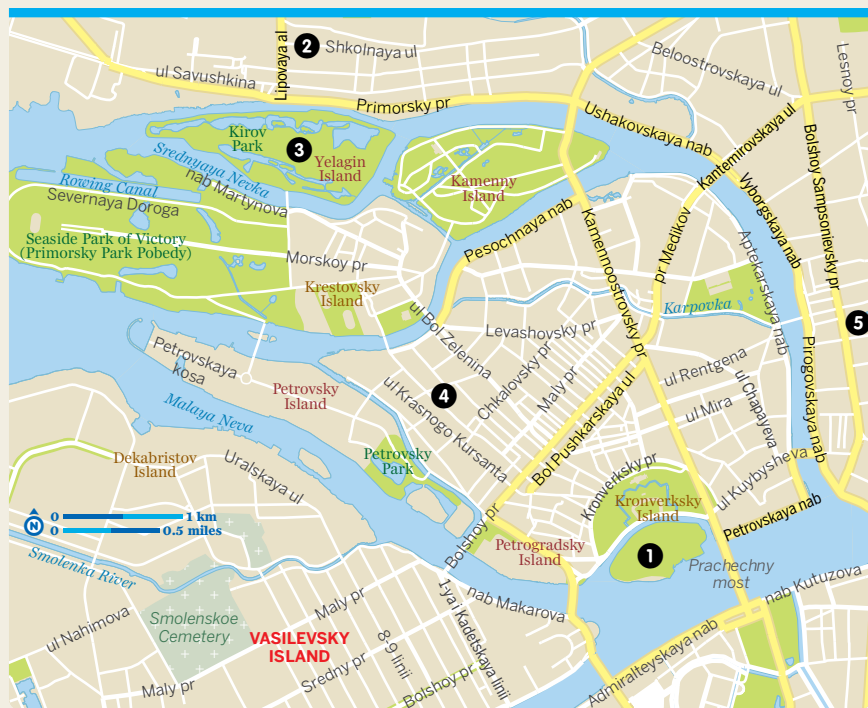
Hermitage Storage Facility (p152).

3 Spending a day relaxing on charming, wooded **Yelagin Island** (p152) – perfect for walking, picnicking, boating and sunbathing.

4 Being dazzled by the industrial-scale creativity

at the **Street Art Museum** (p154) and **Red Banner Textile Factory** (p147).

5 Making a detour to the historic **Sampsonievsky Cathedral** (p153) for one of the city's most beautiful church interiors.



For more detail of this area see Map p268 ➔

Explore: Petrograd & Vyborg Sides

Peter's city was first founded on the Petrograd Side and it's a fascinating place packed with historical sites, stunning Style Moderne architecture and a couple of great live-music venues. It includes little Zayachy Island, home to the Peter & Paul Fortress, St Petersburg's most historic complex, as well as the Kirovsky Islands (Yelagin, Krestovsky and Kamenny), three charming, wooded Neva delta islands that are predominantly given over to parks and recreation areas.

North of the islands, on the right bank of the Neva River, the Vyborg Side is a sprawling area of industry and massive apartment blocks stretching from the Gulf of Finland to Okhta, east of the Neva as it bends around Smolny towards the Alexander Nevsky Monastery. The main attractions are scattered, but include worthwhile ones such as the Hermitage Storage Facility and new Street Art Museum, as well as one of the city's best bathhouses.

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.
- **Street art** Check out the creative daubs of street artists on the walls around the shuttered Red Banner Textile Factory and the giant murals near Chkalovskaya metro (p147).
- **Strip off** Stand next to the serious sunbathers tanning against the fortress walls or on the beach at Zayachy Island. For a year-round tropical holiday, splash around with crowds at Piterland waterpark (p158).

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 Chyornaya Rechka, down Bolshoy pr on the Petrograd Side and on into the historic heart.
- **Tram** Tram 6 provides a handy link between pl Lenina and Vasilyevsky Island via Kronverksky pr on the Petrograd Side while tram 40 is also useful for traversing the Petrograd Side to Chyornaya Rechka.
- **Marshrutka** *Marshrutka* (fixed route minibuses) 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 (p156)
- Chekhov (p156)
- Koryushka (p156)
- Semeinye Traditsy (p156)

For reviews, see p154 ➔

Best Parks & Gardens

- Yelagin Island (p152)
- Kamenny Island (p152)
- Botanical Gardens (p148)
- Maritime Victory Park (p152)

For reviews, see p147 ➔

Best Museums

- Hermitage Storage Facility (p152)
- Museum of Political History (p147)
- Commandant's House (p145)
- Kirov Museum (p148)

For reviews, see p147 ➔