

Sennaya & Kolomna

SENNAYA | KOLOMNA

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Seeing a dazzling Russian ballet or opera classic at the iconic **Mariinsky Theatre** (p101) or the impressive new **Mariinsky II** (p109) next door.

2 Marveling at the interiors and hearing tales of Rasputin's grizzly end at the

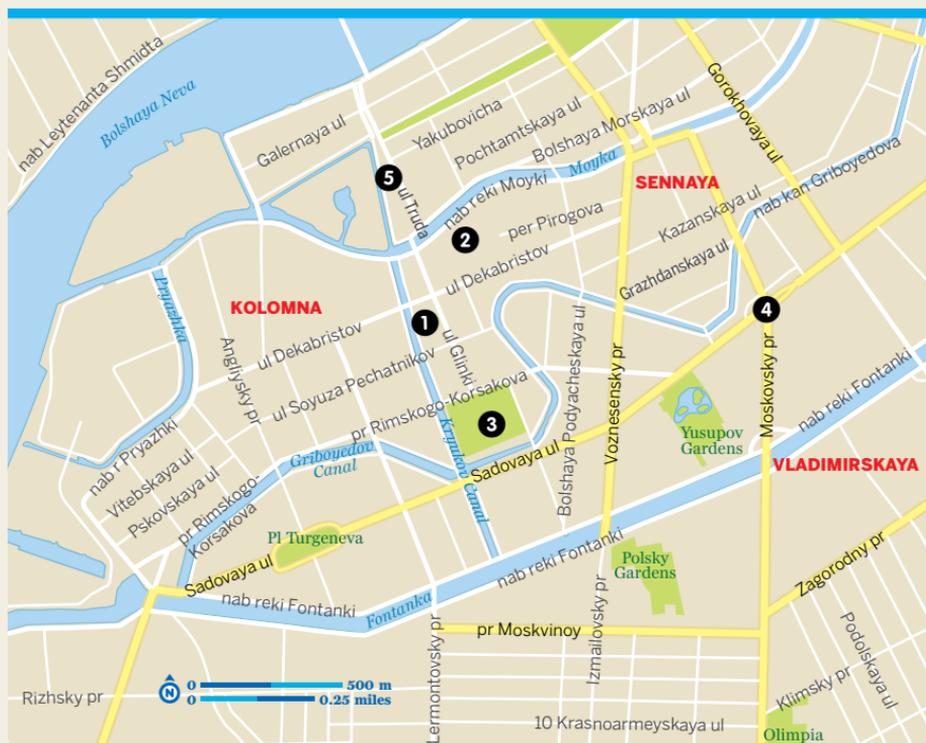
impressive **Yusupov Palace** (p100).

3 Visiting perhaps St Petersburg's single prettiest church, the sky-blue and gold **Nikolsky Cathedral** (p104), surrounded by canals and charming gardens.

4 Reliving one of the most famous murders in literature

in and around **Sennaya Ploshchad** (p102), where Dostoevsky set his classic *Crime and Punishment*.

5 Taking a journey into Russia's impressive maritime history at the superb **Central Naval Museum** (p103).



For more detail of this area see Map p264 →

Explore: Sennaya & Kolonna

Sennaya and Kolonna are two very different areas directly to the west of Nevsky pr, both wedged between the Fontanka and Neva Rivers. Sennaya, focused on the eponymous Sennaya pl (Haymarket), is one of the city's busiest commercial neighbourhoods and is also rather rundown. The poverty so vividly brought to life in Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* may no longer be evident here any more, but you'll immediately notice that this is a poorer, scruffier part of town than the historic heart, with few of the embellishments.

Kolonna, named after the largest of the seven islands that make up the neighbourhood, is by contrast something of a sleepy village in the heart of the city. With no metro station and surrounded on three sides by water, it's a beautiful and relaxed quiet spot that also includes the world-famous Mariinsky Theatre and the abandoned island of New Holland, in the slow process of being transformed into an enormous cultural centre. A new metro station by the Mariinsky Theatre is promised, and this could certainly enliven what remains a bit of a backwater at St Petersburg's heart.

Local Life

➔ **Canal life** Sennaya and Kolonna are home to some of the prettiest stretches of canal in the city, well away from the crowds. Check out the gorgeous Kryukov Canal, the far ends of the Griboyedov Canal and the Fontanka River.

➔ **Free concerts** Check out the Maly Zal (small hall) at the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory (p110), where you'll often see fantastic-quality free concerts from students and alumni.

➔ **Transport issues** Get to know the bus and *marshrutka* (fixed route minibus) routes if you're going to be spending any time in Kolonna, where there's no metro and distances on foot can be very long.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** Sennaya is served by the interconnecting Sennaya Ploshchad (Line 2), Spasskaya (Line 4) and Sadovaya (Line 5) stations, the city's biggest interchange, entrances to which are all on Sennaya pl. Kolonna is not served by the metro at all at the time of writing, though an extension to the Mariinsky is planned. Currently the nearest stations are those on Sennaya pl or Admiralteyskaya station in the historic heart.

➔ **Bus** Bus 3 connects the Mariinsky with Nevsky pr via Bolshaya Morskaya ul, while trolleybus 5 connects pl Truda with Nevsky pr via Konnogvardeysky bul.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Book ahead of time to see the ballet or opera performance you're interested in at the Mariinsky Theatre (www.mariinsky.ru), especially during the White Nights, when performances of popular productions sell out months in advance. You can book and pay for tickets on the website, and then collect them at the box office before the performance, which is much better than trying to find what's available once you're in town.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Mansarda (p108)
 - ➔ Romeo's Bar & Kitchen (p107)
 - ➔ Teplo (p106)
 - ➔ Khochu Kharcho (p106)
- For reviews, see p105 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Mayakovsky (p108)
- ➔ Stirka 40 (p108)
- ➔ Real Deal's Old School Bar (p109)
- ➔ Dom (p106)

For reviews, see p108 ➔

Best Palaces

- ➔ Yusupov Palace (p100)
- ➔ House of Music (p105)
- ➔ Old Yusupov Palace (p103)
- ➔ Rumyantsev Mansion (p104)

For reviews, see p100 ➔