

Smolny & Vosstaniya

SMOLNY | LITEYNY | VLADIMIRSKAYA | VOSSTANIYA

Neighbourhood Top Five

1 Exploring the beating heart of Orthodox St Petersburg in the complex of churches at the **Alexander Nevsky Monastery** (p114) and seeing the last resting place of many of Russia's greatest artists in the atmospheric cemeteries.

2 Taking in the spectacular powder blue and

white exterior of Rastrelli's baroque **Smolny Cathedral** (p116).

3 Savouring the superb collection of gorgeous objects at the **Museum of Decorative & Applied Arts** (p117).

4 Visiting the **Cathedral of the Transfiguration Of**

Our Saviour (p116) and **Vladimirsky Cathedral** (p120), two of St Petersburg's least known but most charming churches.

5 Seeing the room where Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote *The Brothers Karamazov* at the fascinating **Dostoevsky Museum** (p120).



For more detail of this area see Map p260 ➔

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. Smolny is the well-heeled seat of local government and home to most of the consulates in the city, while Liteyny is centred on Liteyny pr, a busy traffic artery, but is quiet and residential as soon as you get onto the side streets.

On the south side of Nevsky the neighbourhood of Vladimirskaia is dominated by the grand, onion-domed Vladimirsky Cathedral. This is a busy, commercial area full of shops, restaurants and quirky museums.

Nevsky pr continues east to pl Vosstaniya (Uprising Sq), so called because the February Revolution began here in 1917. This large area contains industrial wasteland, as well as St Petersburg's busiest railway terminus, the Moscow Station (Moskovsky Vokzal). Nevsky pr ends at pl Alexandra Nevskogo, named after the city's patron saint. On this square stands the ancient and revered Alexander Nevsky Monastery. Vosstaniya has a seedy, poor feel, but is the closest St Petersburg has to a creative and alternative culture hub, with art galleries, bars and clubs.

Local Life

➔ **Creative kicks** Make the most of being in St Petersburg's most creative area: enjoy an exhibition at Loft Project ETAGI, installations at the Rizzordi Art Foundation and shop at Tkachi.

➔ **Shop till you drop** Two of the city's biggest shopping centres are here: Galeria and Nevsky Centre.

➔ **Park life** When the weather is fine, join locals in the Tauride Garden, one of Petersburg's most lovely and laid-back green spaces.

Getting There & Away

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

➔ **Bus** Handy for getting up or down Nevsky pr, dozens of buses and trolleybuses run this route, including buses 24 and 191, which run the entirety of Nevsky.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Avoid hanging around the entrance to the Moscow Station on pl Vosstaniya. It's a favoured police hang-out 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

- ➔ Grand Cru (p125)
- ➔ Duo Gastrobar (p121)
- ➔ Mechta Molokhovets (p122)
- ➔ Schengen (p121)
- ➔ Vinostudia (p123)

For reviews, see p118 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Mishka (p126)
- ➔ Union Bar & Grill (p126)
- ➔ Dyuni (p127)
- ➔ Dom Beat (p126)
- ➔ The Hat (p126)

For reviews, see p126 ➔

Best Museums

- ➔ Museum of Decorative & Applied Arts (p117)
- ➔ Anna Akhmatova Museum at the Fountain House (p118)
- ➔ Museum of the Defence & Blockade of Leningrad (p118)
- ➔ Dostoevsky Museum (p120)

For reviews, see p116 ➔