

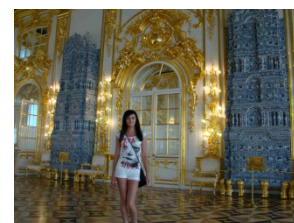
## The list of recommended sites to visit in Saint Petersburg

1. The **Winter Palace** – the former residence of the Russian monarchs – is now a largest museum of art and culture.
2. The **Peter and Paul Fortress** is the citadel built by Peter the Great – the founder of St. Petersburg. The fortress contains cathedral that is the burial place of Russian tsars from Peter I to Alexander III.
3. **Saint Isaac's Cathedral** is the prominent Russian Orthodox basilica in Saint Petersburg.
4. The **Smolny Convent's** main church is considered to be one of the architectural masterpieces of the Italian architect Rastrelli.
5. **Kazan Cathedral** is located on Nevsky Prospekt – the main street in Saint Petersburg.
6. **Petrovskaya water area** is a museum that contains models of the most significant buildings erected in the XVIII century on the banks of the Neva River and the Gulf of Finland.

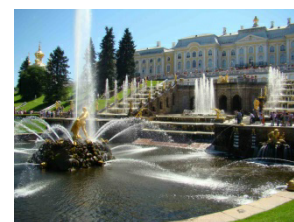
7. **Belosselsky Belozersky Palace** is a magnificent Neo-Baroque building located on Nevsky Prospekt.



8. The **Catherine Palace** is located 30 km south of St. Petersburg. It was the summer residence of the Russian tsars. The palace comprises decorated halls and rooms, including the reproduced Amber Room.



9. The town **Petergof** hosts series of palaces, fountains, and gardens, built on the orders of Peter the Great, sometimes called the "Russian Versailles".



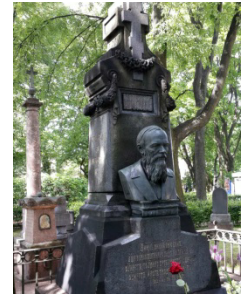
10. **Pavlovsk Palace** is an 18th-century Russian Imperial residence built by Catherine the Great for her son, Grand Duke Paul.

11. The **Mariinsky Theatre** is a historic theatre of opera and ballet in Saint Petersburg. Opened in 1860, it became the preeminent music theatre of late 19th century Russia, where many of the stage masterpieces of Tchaikovsky,



Mussorgsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov received their premieres.

12. **Saint Alexander Nevsky Monastery** was founded by Peter I of Russia in 1710. The monastery grounds contain two baroque churches, the Lazarev and Tikhvin Cemeteries, where tombs of Lomonosov, Suvorov, Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Dostoevsky, and other famous Russian musicians, writers, artists are preserved.



13. **Oranienbaum** is a Russian royal residence founded in 1711 and located 40 km west of St. Petersburg. During World War II, only Oranienbaum and Kronstadt were not destroyed and remain pristine. The Palace ensemble and the city centre are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The amazing interiors are must see in Oranienbaum palaces.

14. **Mikhailovsky Castle** was built in 1800 as a residence for Emperor Paul I in the center of Saint Petersburg. Paul I was afraid of assassination plots and disliked the Winter Palace where he did not feel safe. He was assassinated 40 nights after he moved into his newly built castle. After Paul's death, the imperial family returned to the Winter Palace.

