

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PREVENTION OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 27-28 May 2015

SIGHTS OF SAINT PETERSBURG

Nevsky Prospect

Nevsky Prospect is St. Petersburg's main avenue and one of the best-known streets in Russia. Cutting through the historical center of the city, it runs from the Admiralty to the Moscow Railway Station and then, after a slight kink, to the Alexander Nevsky Monastery. In the very first days of St. Petersburg it was simply the beginning of the road to the ancient city of Novgorod, but it quickly became adorned with beautiful buildings, squares and bridges and became the very center of the bustling, rapidly growing city. Nevsky gradually widens as you travel along its length towards the river and is lined with some



of St. Petersburg's most impressive buildings; note Kazan Cathedral on one side and the book store (the former Singer sewing machine company headquarters) on the other and the wonderful view down Kanal Griboedova to the picturesque Russian-style Church of Our Savior on Spilled Blood.

The Admiralty

The original Admiralty was one of the first structures to be built in St. Petersburg. It was designed to be a dockyard, where some of the first ships of Russia's Baltic fleet were built (some with the participation of Tsar Peter himself who was an expert in shipbuilding). The Admiralty was also fortified to be an extra defense for the newly acquired territory of the Neva delta. The Admiralty was built between 1806 and 1823 by the architect Adrian Zakharov. He maintained the original plan of the building, but turned it into a marvelous example of the Russian Empire style,



with rows of white columns, wonderful relief detail and numerous statues. The Admiralty tower, topped with its golden spire, is the focal point of three of the city's main streets: Nevsky Prospect, Gorokhovaya Street and Voznesensky Avenue, and can be seen along the entire length of each one. The Admiralty was Russia's Naval Headquarters until 1917, and now serves as a naval college.

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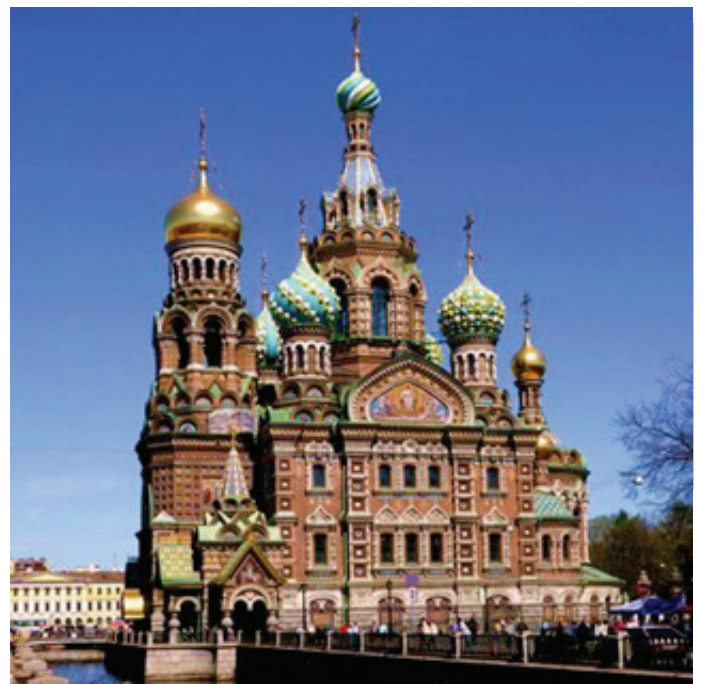
Palace Square and Winter Palace

This vast expanse is simply one of the most striking squares in the world, still redolent of imperial grandeur almost a century after the end of the Romanov dynasty. For the most amazing first impression, walk from Nevsky avenue up to Bolshaya Morskaya street and under the Triumphal arch. In the centre of the square there is the 47,5 m Alexander Column — named after Alexander I, it commemorates the 1812 victory over Napoleon. The square's northern end is capped by the Winter Palace (Zimny Dvorets), the residence of tsars from 1762 to 1917; it's now the largest part of the Hermitage. Curving an incredible 580 m around the south side of the square is General Staff Building completed in 1829. The east wing now houses a branch of the Hermitage while the west wing is the headquarters of the Western Military District.



The Church of Our Savior on the Spilled Blood

This five-domed dazzler is St. Petersburg's most elaborate church with a classic Russian Orthodox exterior and interior decorated with some 7000 sq m of mosaics. Officially called the Church of the Resurrection of Christ, its far more striking colloquial name references the assassination attempt on Tsar Alexander II here in 1881. The church, which incorporates elements of 18th-century Russian architecture, is so lavish it took 24 years to build and went over budget by 1 million rubles – an enormous sum for the times. Following decades of abuse and neglect during the Soviet era, painstaking restoration began in the 1970s and took 27 years to be completed.



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Kazan Cathedral

Kazan Cathedral, constructed between 1801 and 1811 by the architect Andrei Voronikhin, was built to an enormous scale and boasts an impressive stone colonnade, encircling a small garden and central fountain. The cathedral was inspired by the Basilica of St. Peter's in Rome and was intended to be the country's main Orthodox Church. After the war of 1812 (during which Napoleon was defeated) the church became a monument to Russian victory. The cathedral was named after the "miracle-making" icon of Our Lady of Kazan, which the church housed



till the early 1930s. The Bolsheviks closed the cathedral for services in 1929, and from 1932 it housed the collections of the Museum of the History of Religion and Atheism, which displayed numerous pieces of religious art and served anti-religious propaganda purposes.

St. Isaac's Cathedral

The dome of St. Isaac's Cathedral dominates the skyline of St. Petersburg. The church itself is an architectural marvel. Built by the French-born architect to be the main church of the Russian Empire, the cathedral was under construction for 40 years (1818-1858), and was decorated in the most elaborate way possible. The columns are made of single pieces of red granite and weight 80 tons (about 177.770 pounds) each. Inside the church many of the icons were created using mosaic techniques and the iconostasis (the icon wall that separates the altar from the rest of the church) is decorated



with 8 malachite and 2 lapis lazuli columns. The cathedral, which can accommodate 14.000 worshippers, now serves as a museum and services are held only on significant ecclesiastical holidays.

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Peter & Paul Fortress

The building of the Peter and Paul Fortress in 1703 marks the founding of the city of St. Petersburg. The fortress has become one of the city's main attractions thanks to its many historic buildings. Housing a cathedral where the Romanovs are buried, a former prison and various exhibitions, this large defensive fortress on Zayachy Island is the kernel from which St. Petersburg grew into the city it is today. By 1924 most of the fortress was converted into a museum.

