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Upcoming events in St Petersburg

City Pub Crawl Saint Petersburg
- From Mar 11th 2017 until Dec 31st 2017
- Meetinig point in the lobby metro st.Mayakovskay (green line) near the monument to Mayakovsky. Guide with an orange flag.

Art Of The 20th Century
- From Jan 1st 2000 until Jan 19th 2038, on 2 Griboyedov Canal

Russian Art In The Context Of World Art Process
- From Jan 1st 2000 until Jan 19th 2038, on 5/1 Millionnaya Str.

Best rated restaurants in St Petersburg

The Idiot
- nab. reky Moiky 82

Palkin
- Nevsky Prospekt 47

Na Zdorovie
- Bolshoi prospekt 13

Nebar
- Liteiniy prospect 57

Demidov
- nab. reky Fontanky 14

Bliny Domik
- ul. Kolokolnaya 8

IL Patio
- Nevsky Prospekt 182

Camelot
- Nevsky Prospekt 22

Most popular pubs & clubs in St Petersburg

Fish Fabrique
- ul. Pushkinskaya 10

James Cook
- per. Shvedsky 2
Cafe Club Che
ul. Poltavskaya 3

Metro
Ligovsky Prospekt 174

Shamrock
ul. Dekabristov 27

More on www.local-life.com/st-petersburg/pubs ›

Best hotels in St Petersburg

- Hotel California
  ul. Marata 67/17, Apt. 36
- Karamazov Brothers Hotel
  ul. Sotsialisticheskaya 11a
- Fifth Sovetskaya 21
  5th ul. Sovetskaya 21
- Radisson Royal Hotel
  Nevsky prospekt 49/2

More on www.local-life.com/st-petersburg/hotels ›

Essential services in St Petersburg

- American Medical Clinic
  nab. reky Moika 78
- Nevsky Prostor
  Galerny proezd 3
- Avis
  Arrivals Hall, Pulkovo International Air
- Naree Siam Thai Massage and Spa
  г.Санкт-Петербург ул.Шереметьевская дом 15 литер А

More on www.local-life.com/st-petersburg/services ›

Need some culture?

- Peterhof
  ul. Razvodnaya 2
- State Hermitage Museum
  pl. Dvortsovaya 2
Church on the Spilled Blood  
pl. Teatralnaya 1

Mariinsky Theatre  
pl. Teatralnaya 1

Peter and Paul Fortress  
Petropavlovskaya Krepost 3

Pushkinskaya-10 Art Centre  
ul. Pushkinskaya 10

Erarta Museum and Galleries of Contemporary Art  
29th line

Nabokov Museum  
ul. Bolshaya Morskaya 47

More on www.local-life.com/st-petersburg/culture ›
Travel tips

As you might expect of the world's most northerly big city St. Petersburg is pretty darn cold from October to April, and really bitingly cold from December to February/March. You might think leggings are for girls, but then you probably haven't experienced temperatures in excess of minus thirty degrees...

If however you're coming to St. Petersburg during summer, be sure to nick some of those funky eyepatches on the plane over. Could come in handy for sleeping during the White Nights!

You thought your hassles with your visa were over? So naive! You must register your visa with the OVIR (Russian Visa and Registration Department) within 3 working days of your arrival - or there may not be a departure. The good news is that if you're forked out more than a tenner for your accommodation then you should find that your hotel registers your visa for you. If not, rather than experience the joys of Russian bureaucracy first hand, we suggest you go to a travel agency and pay a fee for them to do it.

Beware the bridges! St. Petersburg's three hundred spans may contribute to the city's beauty, but they can also be a banana-skin for the unsuspecting nightowl. If you plan on returning home late at night and need to cross the River Neva then make sure your bridge isn't being raised to allow passing barges to get by - or you could be stuck waiting for the first metro home.

Although stories of Police harrassing tourists are highly exaggerated, spotchecks can happen. Always carry your passport and valid visa with you - and best have the number of your embassy handy in case they claim your documents are out of order. You will also need your passport when exchanging currency.

Everyone knows Russians love to drink vodka - what's more they often consider it rude if you don't join in! In social situations a mixture of indulgence (so as not to offend anyone), diplomacy (to avoid doing too many shots), and caution (to remember you can't handle too many shots) is needed. If you don't like vodka then munching on a gherkin/cucumber can take the sharpness out of the aftertaste!

Above: Make sure you know how to use one of these...

Below: ...Before you get stuck in one of these!

Russians were taught to be suspicious of foreigners during Soviet times, and shouting at them in English won't go down well. Break some barriers by learning a couple of Russian words. It also might be worth brushing up on your Russian sports stars, if you want to turn a potentially nasty situation with some dodgy geezers into one of drunken camaraderie. The schedule below is subject to change, but gives you a rough idea of when the key bridges are out of action.

Most Alexander Nevskogo 02:35 - 04:50; Liteyny Most 02:10 - 04:40; Bolshoy Okhtinsky Most 02:45 - 04:45; Dvortssov Most 01:35 - 03:05 and 03:15 - 04:45; Troitsky Most 02:00 - 04:40; Tuchkov Most 02:20 - 03:10 and 03:40 - 04:40; Most Leytenanta Shmidtta 01:55 - 04:50; Most Birzhevoy 02:25 - 03:10 and 03:40 - 04:40.

Getting around
By metro
Whilst nowhere near the beast that is Moscow's Metro system, St. Petersburg's four lines can disorientate, mainly due to the absence of Latin letters. If you can't read Cyrillic you could easily end up waiting for the first train home on the wrong platform, and be left at the mercy of benevolent comrades to set you straight... Other than that though it's a piece of cake! There's one price no matter how far you're going, and tickets are cheaper if bought en masse.

By taxi
Official taxis tend to be expensive - especially if you have the grave misfortune of needing to go to the airport. Calling a reputable company in advance and getting a quote can save you plenty of roubles, although there's no guarantee the person on the end of the receiver speaks English. If you want to 'go native' then you can always throw caution to the wind and hail down a citizen taxi.

By car
Neither Russian roads nor drivers are known to be the safest but if you're determined to go it alone there are a number of car rental services you can take advantage of. You need to be 21 years of age and have one year's driving experience. After that you're ready to engage potholes and drunk-drivers in a fight 'til the death... Don't say we didn't warn you!

By buses, trolleybuses and mini-buses
Filthy cheap and not totally unreliable, buses and trolleybuses aren't a bad option for getting round town, as long as you know exactly where to get on and off. Meanwhile the little mini-buses that scoot around town can be flagged down as if they were a taxi. Generally speaking tourists will find the metro easier to navigate, but if you do venture on board you're sure to have plenty of fun playing pass the parcel with everyone's ticket and change.

By tram
Once known as the 'City of Trams', St. Petersburg is phasing out these transportation relics as they have proved too obstructive to other traffic. If you do find yourself 'tramming it' then you be sure to get a ticket from the friendly conductor.