



Recommendations for the first time coming to Russia

Transport

From Pulkovo airport (www.pulkovoairport.ru/en/) to St.Petersburg city center:

- Hermitage transfer. Contact us with your arrival information, maybe a car from the museum with volunteers will wait for you at your arrival.
- Taxi. You should not expect to pay more than 800Rub. Driving time into the city center will depend on traffic, which can be very difficult around peak hour. But it rarely takes more than 1 hour.
- Regular bus. From Pulkovo-1, the express bus N39э without intermediate stops operates from 5.25am to 0.20am at 25-minute intervals; the bus N39 operates from 5.30am to 1.30am at 15-minute intervals. From Pulkovo-2, the N13 operates from 5.40am (6am at weekends) to 0.47am, also every 15 minutes. It takes about 20-30 minutes to reach "Moskovskaya" metro station (to find the entrance simply ask passengers "Metro?"). Buy the tickets on board from the conductor or driver, usually for 40 Rubles (+40 Rubles per piece of luggage).
- Metro. Tokens for single trip can be purchased for 45 Rub from ticket office (*kassa*) at every metro station. Signage within metro is in English and Russian. <http://www.all-metro.ru/spb.html> Destination: "Admiraltejskaya" or "Nevsky Prospect" stations.
- Bridges. In summer, the bridges of the city are open at night to let ships go through, so you cannot reach the islands. If your hotel is on the other side of the river, please check the schedule of the openings. <http://razvodka-mostov.ru/peterburg/table>

Money

It is helpful to buy some Rubles before arriving otherwise you will not be able to pay for taxi or bus. The exchange rates offered by banks in the city center will be more profitable than those offered at the airport, but by weekend they are usually closed. You can find ATMs/bankomats in the airport, metro stations, major hotels, and of course, in banks. Look for the exchange-office in Bolshaya Konyushennaya street on the map. Credit cards, especially MAESTRO card are not accepted everywhere, so do not rely only on your credit cards, always have some cash with you. Approximate exchange rate is: 1Euro = 70Rub, 1USD = 60Rub

Hotels

Museum hotel doesn't suit location of the conference.

Podorozhnik transport pass

The Podorozhnik is integrated with transport e-purse which can be used to pay the fare in metro, buses, trolleybuses, trams and city minibuses after its balance has been topped up at metro cash desks and terminals. Podorozhnik is available in 2-7 day options. The card can be purchased at Metro cashier stations. <http://podorozhnik.spb.ru/en/>

General advice

- Documents. Make sure you carry copies of your passport and visa with you in case if you are asked by officials to show it. Keep the migration card given to you at the airport at your arrival. The registration in hotels must be completed during 24 hours after arrival because of the Football Champion Cup.

- Time. The time in St.Petersburg is MSK (UTC+3), while CET (UTC+2 at summer), EET (UTC+3 at summer)
- Weather. Wool pullover and raincoat or umbrella will save your health in case of rain or wind.
- Water. Tap water in St.Petersburg is soft but not intended for drinking. Bottled water (still or sparkling) is available in shops. Water as much as food can be purchased in such supermarkets as ПЕРЕКРЕСТОК [Perekrestok] (Dumskaya Ulitsa, 4; Kirpichnyy per. 2/2). Many grocery shops (ПРОДУКТЫ [produkty], ГАСТРОНОМ [gastronom]) and kiosks stay open 24-hours. Look for the '24' signs.
- Road safety. Be careful and alert when crossing the road – don't assume that drivers will stop just because you are on a pedestrian crossing.
- Beer. The quality depends on producer. Some European beers sold in Russia are brewed in St.Petersburg. Be reasonable with strong drinks.
- Coffee. The coffee is quite good at Coffe Room (Gorokhovaya st.,11), Coffee Shop (Nevsky av. 22/24) and Starbucks (Kazanskaya st.1/25)
- Breakfast or lunch. Plates in "Stolle" <http://www.stolle.ru/en> or "Bushe" <http://www.bushe.ru/> are rather European and absolutely eatable.

In case if you are planning to stay for a while after the conference, you should remember that FIFA18 starts in St.Petersburg on June 15. During the football championship the traffic in downtown will be very difficult.

Language

The staff in shops and cafe/restaurants knows English. In case if you need help out in the street there is no guarantee that people will be able to answer you. It is better to have a Translator app in your phone.

Leisure

All museums except the Russian Museum are closed on Monday.



- City Tour Bus from St Isaac's Square www.citytourspb.ru (the buses are working from 10am to 8pm)



- Night boat-tour on Neva river from Admiraltejskaya embankment, 2 (the pier with lions) <http://www.boattrip.ru/drawbridges>
- Evening visit to St Isaac's Cathedral Colonnade (separate ticket to cathedral entry) www.cathedral.ru
- Evening theatre or concert at the Mariinsky Theatre/Concert Hall https://www.mariinsky.ru/en/playbill/nextplaybill/?next_playbill_mont_h=show (The tickets for the show are better to be purchased in advance)