

## lonely planet Hotels & Hostels

Want more Sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

## SLEEPING

### top picks

- Alexander House (p210)
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# SLEEPING

When choosing a place to lay your head, it is wise to remember two factors: proximity to historic sights, restaurants and bars is always a plus, but so too is easy access to transport. While the Historic Heart is packed with places that cater to all price levels, there are only the two linked metro stations on Nevsky pr, which are a vigorous 20-minute walk from the far corners of the neighbourhood.

Bordering the Historic Heart, Sennaya and Vladimirskaaya and Vosstaniya are lively neighbourhoods that are better served by public transport. Liteyny and Smolny and Mariinsky are quaint but quiet neighbourhoods that are a bit further afield, though they each have their charms.

## ACCOMMODATION STYLES

The most visible type of accommodation in St Petersburg is that of palatial four- and five-star hotels that have proliferated in the past few years. Priced for the business market, they may be prohibitively expensive for some travellers (although many offer far better deals through travel agents and hotel websites). At the other end of the spectrum, the city has a rather depressing collection of post-Intourist Soviet hotels, which are now slowly adapting to the needs of the modern traveller.

As St Petersburg started to be a popular backpacker destination in the 1990s, hostels began to spring up. This is not Prague, of course, but St Pete now offers a good choice of centrally located and well-run hostels.

Unique to St Petersburg but ubiquitous in the city, mini-hotels are a concept that gained currency in the run-up to the tercentennial celebrations in 2003, when it became abundantly clear that there were insufficient beds in the city for the influx of revellers. Ever-resourceful Russian entrepreneurs started opening up small, family-run hotels, many of which are in renovated apartments in unlikely locations. Today, these mini-hotels are some of the best-value and most atmospheric accommodation options in the city.

## LONGER-TERM RENTALS

Anyone spending more than a few days in St Petersburg should consider renting a short-term apartment for the duration of their stay. As well as being financially beneficial (especially if you are travelling in a group), this is a great chance to live life more like the locals, rather than cloistered away in a hotel.

The following agencies and individuals can help you find a flat:

**Apartment Reservation Network** (📞 in Moscow 495-225 5012; [www.apartmentres.com](http://www.apartmentres.com))

**City Realty** (Map p84; 📞 570 6342; [www.cityrealty.ru](http://www.cityrealty.ru); Muchnoy per 2; 📍 Nevsky Pr)

**Bed & Breakfast** (📞 315 5635; [www.bednbkfast.sp.ru](http://www.bednbkfast.sp.ru))

**Flatmates** ([www.flatmates.ru](http://www.flatmates.ru)) A website for travellers looking for somebody to share short- or long-term accommodation.

**Hofa** ([www.hofa.ru](http://www.hofa.ru)) A time-tested, reliable agency that organises homestays and rental of private flats.

**Nevsky Hotels** (📞 703 3860; [www.hon.ru](http://www.hon.ru))

**Zimmer Frei** (📞 973 3757, 273 0867; [www.zimmer.ru](http://www.zimmer.ru))

## RESERVATIONS

It's wise to reserve a bed in advance, and essential during the summer months when St Petersburg is awash with travellers. It usually suffices to call ahead or send an email, but increasingly hotels will ask for credit card details to guarantee a room. Reservations will sometimes be tied up with visa support (see p249), in which case you may be charged for one night's accommodation in advance in any case.

## ROOM RATES

Accommodation listings in this chapter are ordered by neighbourhood, then by budget (from most expensive to least). Prices quoted are high-season rack rates, which are usually in effect from May to September. Prices tend to be at least 20% cheaper from October to April (although prices may also vary within these periods). By using travel agents and hotel booking websites you can usually obtain lower prices at top-end hotels, so it's worth looking into these options for substantial discounts. Prices quoted also include the 18% VAT tax, which is chargeable on hotel rooms in Russia.

Accommodation prices in St Petersburg are often quoted in euros, but payment is usually

## PRICE GUIDE

\$\$\$	over €150 (R5250) per night
\$\$	€50-150 (R1750-5250) per night
\$	under €50 (R1750) per night

in roubles. In this guide, we have quoted prices in whatever currency the hotel uses – in some cases euros and in others roubles. Breakfast is included in the price and all rooms have private bathrooms unless otherwise mentioned.

## HISTORIC HEART

Many first-time visitors to St Petersburg will spend days without leaving the Historic Heart, with its endless array of museums, churches and canals. There's a huge range of accommodation here, including most of the city's very best hotels, a few excellent budget options and an ever-growing number of idiosyncratic mini-hotels that have opened to cater for the huge demand to stay in the neighbourhood.

## WITHIN THE MOYKA

The blocks between the Moyka and the Neva Rivers are crowded with grandiose high-class hotels and modest mini-hotels.

### TALEON IMPERIAL HOTEL

Map pp68–9 Boutique Hotel \$\$\$  
📞 324 9911; [www.eliseevpalacehotel.com](http://www.eliseevpalacehotel.com); nab reki Moyki 59; r R10,000-15,000; 📍 Nevsky Pr; 📞 📺 📺

In the pre-revolutionary home of the wealthy Yeliseyev family, this hotel (formerly the Eliseev Palace) is a grand, gaudy affair where every tap is gold-plated, every towel monogrammed and every room decorated with real and reproduction antiques. Enjoy the exclusivity of a hotel where all rooms have king-size beds, hydromassage baths and state-of-the-art entertainment systems; some have lovely views across the Moyka River.

### HOTEL ASTORIA

Map pp68–9 International Hotel \$\$\$  
📞 313 5757; [www.roccofortehotels.com](http://www.roccofortehotels.com); Bolshaya Morskaya ul 39; s/d €490/550, ste €700-1550; 📍 Nevsky Pr; 📞 📺 📺

What the Hotel Astoria has lost of its original Style Moderne décor, it more than compen-

sates for in contemporary style and top-notch service. Little wonder it's beloved by visiting VIPs, from George W Bush to Mick Jagger. The hotel is now part of the Rocco Forte Hotels group and the rooms marry the hotel's heritage character with a more modern design. The best of the suites are sprinkled with antiques and period furniture and have spectacular views onto St Isaac's Cathedral. The same views – at a slightly lower price – are also available next door at the Angleterre Hotel. Breakfast is not included.

**CASA LETO** Map pp68–9 Mini-Hotel \$\$\$  
📞 314 6622; [www.casaletto.com](http://www.casaletto.com); Bolshaya Morskaya ul 34; r €190-260; 📍 Sennaya Pl; 📞 📺

A dramatically lit stone stairwell sets the scene for this discreet and stylish boutique hotel. The Anglo-Italian owners have named the five guest rooms after famous St Petersburg architects (who also happen to have been Italian). With soft pastel shades and plenty of antiques, the spacious, high-ceilinged quarters are deserving of such namesakes. Enjoy plenty of five-star perks, such as king-size beds and heated floors, not to mention free international phone calls.

**MOYKA 5** Map pp68–9 Mini-Hotel \$\$\$  
📞 601 0636; [www.hon.ru](http://www.hon.ru); nab reki Moyki 5; s/d R5950/6650; 📍 Nevsky Pr; 📞 📺

The newest property in the chain of Nevsky Hotels is on the Moyka River, behind the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood. It's a pretty slick location for a fairly simple hotel, with 24 rooms that provide all the necessary comforts.

### COMFORT HOTEL

Map pp68–9 Mini-Hotel \$\$  
📞 570 6700; [www.comfort-hotel.spb.ru](http://www.comfort-hotel.spb.ru); Bolshaya Morskaya ul 25; r from R3920; 📍 Nevsky Pr; 📞 📺

This aptly named hotel is indeed comfortable, with 14 cosy rooms, all decorated

# top picks

## CHEAP SLEEPS

- Nord Hostel (p204)
- St Petersburg International Hostel (p208)
- Nils Bed & Breakfast (p207)
- Andrey & Sasha's Homestay (p210)

in a simple, subdued style. The location is excellent – midway between St Isaac's Cathedral, Dvortsovaya pl and Nevsky pr. Alternatively, **Herzen Hotel** (☎ 315 5550; www.herzen-hotel.ru; r R3600-4600; 🏠 🚿 🚶) is a slightly larger facility of similar standards that is in the same building.

### HOTEL SONATA Map pp68–9 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 315 5112; www.hotel-sonata.com; Gorokhovaya ul 3; r R3500-4200; 🏠 Nevsky Pr; 🏠 🚿 🚶  
Sonata has mini-hotels in several locations around the city, but this one in the Historic Heart is by far the best. The location – just across from the Admiralty and one block from Dvortsovaya pl – is unbeatable. And the 19th-century building retains its historic feel, its high ceilings decorated with ceiling medallions and its floors covered in parquet. In the same building, the **Solo Hotel** (☎ 315 9300; www.solo-hotel.ru; Gorokhovaya ul 3; s/d standard R3800/4200, comfort R4100/4600; 🏠 🚿 🚶) offers similar facilities and slightly higher prices.

### PRESTIGE HOTEL ON GOROKHOVAYA Map pp68–9 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 312 0405; www.prestige-hotels.com; Gorokhovaya ul 5; s/d from R2900/4320; 🏠 Nevsky Pr; 🏠 🚿 🚶

The spire of the Admiralty is an apt logo for this little hotel, as that landmark is just a few steps away. This place provides excellent service and satisfactory accommodation. It lacks a coherent sense of style, however, and the unusual design seems to mix Zen-inspired minimalism with bargain-basement space age.

### NEVSKY PROSPEKT B&B Map pp68–9 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 325 9398; www.bnbrussia.com; Nevsky pr 11, apt 8; s/d with shared bathroom €80/100; 🏠 Nevsky Pr; 🚿 🚶

Superbly located and delightfully decorated, this five-room facility is among the city's most charming, with tiled stoves, antique furnishings and the oldest functioning radio and TV you're likely to see anywhere. The English-speaking staff will make you feel right at home, serving breakfast and afternoon tea every day. The only downside is the shared bathroom facilities, which means the rooms are a bit overpriced. Airport transfers are included in the price, but visa support is additional.

### NEVSKY INN Map pp68–9 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 970 4029; www.nevskynn.ru; Kirpichny per 2, flat 19; s/d Nevsky-1 €75/85, Nevsky-2 €85/95; 🏠 Nevsky Pr; 🏠 🚿 🚶  
Run by joint British-Russian management, this little inn is one of the best bargains in the city. It has two locations that are just around the corner from each other – both in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the city's historic heart. Eleven simple rooms enjoy a straightforward décor and plenty of natural light. All guests have access to kitchen facilities.

### NORD HOSTEL Map pp68–9 Hostel \$

☎ 571 0342; www.nordhostel.com; Bolshaya Morskaya ul 10; dm/d €24/65; 🏠 Nevsky Pr; 🏠 🚿 🚶  
The ideal location of this discreetly marked hostel – just under the archway from Dvortsovaya pl – is almost too good to be true. An impressive stairwell leads to the friendly 1st-floor hostel, which offers six- or 10-bed dorms, as well as a private double room. All of the rooms have high ceilings, Ikea-style furniture and plenty of natural light, making for a pleasant enough atmosphere. Other facilities include lockers, kitchen, laundry and – should you feel a tune coming on – an upright piano.

### HOTEL NAUKA Map pp68–9 Hostel \$

☎ 315 3368; Millionnaya ul 27; s €20-30, d €25-40, tr/q €20/26; 🏠 Nevsky Pr  
Soviet-era accommodation is an acquired taste, but if your budget is small and you're willing to forego bourgeois luxury, this good-value, no-frills hostel fits the bill. Advance booking is advised as it can fill up with impecunious academics who, no doubt, feel very much at home in its university dorm-style rooms. Bathrooms are shared and – depending on your room – showers may cost extra. Nobody really speaks English but that may also be part of the fun. Breakfast is not included.

## BETWEEN THE MOYKA & THE FONTANKA

The streets between the Moyka and the Fontanka Rivers are at the centre of the action: surrounded by restaurants, bars and shops, and convenient to the Historic Heart's metro stations.

### GRAND HOTEL EUROPE Map pp68–9 International Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 329 6000; www.grandhoteleurope.com; Mikhailovskaya ul 1/7; r from €556, ste from €910; 🏠 Gostiny Dvor; 🏠 🚿 🚶

One of the world's iconic hotels, the Grand Hotel Europe lives up to its name. Since 1830, when Carlo Rossi united three adjacent buildings with the grandiose façade we see today, little has been allowed to change in this heritage building. No two rooms are the same, but most are spacious and elegant in design. The junior suites are particularly lovely with original patterned parquet floors and smatterings of antiques. Regular guests quite rightly swear by the terrace rooms which afford spectacular views across the city's rooftops.

### KEMPINSKI HOTEL MOYKA 22 Map pp68–9 International Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 335 9111; www.kempinski.com; nab reki Moyki 22; r/ste from €415/715; 🏠 Nevsky Pr; 🏠 🚿 🚶  
Kempinski's newest property is a fine addition to St Petersburg's portfolio of luxury hotels. The location on the Moyka River – and practically on the doorstep of the Hermitage – is marvellous. Rooms have a stylish marine theme, with cherry-wood furniture and a handsome navy blue and gold colour scheme. During the day, tour buses crowd the views of Dvortsovaya pl from the better rooms. However, the 360-degree panorama from the rooftop Belle View restaurant and bar is unbeatable (although you'll pay extra for your breakfast).

### NEVSKY HOTELS Map pp68–9 Mini-Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 703 3860; www.hon.ru; 🏠 Nevsky Pr  
This excellent chain of mini-hotels is rapidly expanding to locations all over the centre. These three outlets are all clustered along Bolshaya Konyushennaya ul, a pleasant avenue that runs from Nevsky pr to the Moyka River. The most innovative (and the most expensive) is the Deluxe: taking full advantage of the building's high ceilings, each of the seven rooms has a mezzanine level which serves as the bedroom. The Aster is the cheapest and the largest of the bunch, though it lacks some amenities. In all cases, rooms are comfortable and modern, if a bit plain:

**Nevsky Deluxe Hotel** (☎ 312 3131; Nevsky 22-24; ste R7350; 🏠 🚿 🚶)

**Nevsky Grand Hotel** (☎ 312 1206; Bolshaya Konyushennaya ul 10; R5950/6650; 🏠 🚿 🚶)

**Nevsky Hotel Aster** (☎ 336 6585; Bolshaya Konyushennaya ul 25; s/d R5250/5950)

### KORONA Map pp68–9 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 571 0086; www.korona-spb.com; Malaya Konyushennaya ul 7; s/d from R4700/6100; 🏠 Nevsky Pr; 🏠 🚿 🚶

With its funny combination of faux marble and citrus colours, some might dismiss the decorative choices at this place as lurid. But there's no faulting the size, location and service at this cut-above-the-average mini-hotel. Unlike some other hotels in this class, the Korona's 11 rooms have plenty of space to spread out.

### ANICKOV PENSION Map pp68–9 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 314 7059; www.anichkov.com; Nevsky pr 64, apt 4; s/d from R4680/5860; 🏠 Gostiny Dvor  
In the best tradition of exclusive European pensions, the unignosted Anichkov is a place for those in the know. On the 3rd floor of a handsome apartment building with an antique lift, this self-styled pension has just six rooms. All are decorated in soft shades of beige and cream with walnut veneer furniture and antique-themed wallpaper. The delightful lounge offers balcony views of the bridge from which the pension takes its name.

### PUSHKA INN Map pp68–9 Boutique Hotel \$\$

☎ 312 0913; www.pushkainn.ru; nab reki Moyki 14; s/d R3600/6200, apt R8200-10,000; 🏠 Nevsky Pr; 🏠 🚿 🚶

On a particularly picturesque stretch of the Moyka River, this charming inn is housed in a historic 18th-century building, just next door to the **Pushkin Flat-Museum** (p72). The rooms are decorated in dusky pinks and caramel tones, with wide floorboards and – if you're willing to pay more – lovely views of the Moyka. Multi-bedroom family-style apartments are also available.

### RACHMANINOV ANTIQUE HOTEL Map pp68–9 Mini-Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 327 7466; www.hotelrachmaninov.com; Kazanskaya ul 5; s/d R3600/4100; 🏠 Nevsky Pr  
Perfectly located and beautifully designed, the Rachmaninov Antique is as romantic

## SLEEP LIKE A TSAR

Perhaps you have always wanted to sleep in a summer palace. Here is your chance. Peter the Great built his summer palace at Strelna, a town about 24km from St Petersburg (see p219), and now it is Putin's presidential palace. Putin houses his guests on the grounds at the **Baltic Star Hotel** (☎ 438 5700; www.balticstar-hotel.ru; Beriozovaya al 3; s & d €180-390, ste €375-1000, cottage €4200). If it's not otherwise occupied, you could stay here too.

The hotel opened in 2003, when a group of European leaders were in town for a Russia-EU summit. These days it is open to the public.

Besides the 100 well-appointed rooms in the main hotel, there are 18 VIP cottages on the shore of the Gulf of Finland. The cottages, named for different Russian cities, are decorated with original artwork appropriate to the region. Each is equipped with a private dining room, study, sauna, swimming pool and, of course, staff quarters for your entourage.

as the music of its namesake composer. Stuffed full of antiques, the understated rooms nonetheless enjoy a modern feel, with hardwood floors, exposed brick walls and otherwise minimalist décor. The premises are adorned with photography and paintings adorn the premises, which sometimes host gatherings of artists and musicians who are staying in the city.

## BELVEDER NEVSKY

Map pp68-9 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 571 2333; www.belveder-nevsky.spb.ru; Bolshaya Konyushennaya ul 29; s/d R3750/4500; M Nevsky Pr; ☎

A little bit different from the cookie-cutter mini-hotels, this Finnish-managed business hotel takes things to the next level. Automatic doors open onto corridors covered with golden, diamond-patterned wallpaper. The effect is dazzling, matched by the efficiency of the English-speaking receptionist. The decoration of the large rooms also veers towards the opulent with gold-striped wallpaper, flowing window drapes and richly patterned bedspreads.

## POLIKOFF HOTEL

Map pp68-9 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 314 7925; www.polikoff.ru; Nevsky pr 64/11; r R3960-4680; M Gostiny Dvor

A quiet haven of contemporary cool just steps away from Nevsky pr, the Polikoff Hotel can be hard to find. Enter through the brown door at Karavannaya ul 11 and dial 26. You will find a soothing décor that features subdued lighting, blond-wood veneer and the soft brown and cream tones beloved of modern-design hotels. A few smaller rooms are available at reduced rates – a great find for all those style gurus on a budget.

## PIO ON GRIBOEDOV

Map pp68-9 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 571 9476; www.hotelpio.ru; nab kanala Griboedova 35, apt 5; s/d/tr/q R2800/3100/4200/5000; M Nevsky Pr; ☎

A hidden gem overlooking the Griboedov Canal, this pensionlike lodging has only six rooms, each painted in jewel tones and decorated with the utmost simplicity. Big windows look out onto the canal or onto an inner courtyard, allowing plenty of light into the spacious bedrooms, which share access to sparkling new toilets and showers. If Pio is booked out, you can try the less expensive but less appealing **Hotel Grifon** (☎ 315 4916; www.grifonhotel.ru; nab kanala Griboedova 35; s/d from R2390/2590) in the same building.

## CUBA HOSTEL

Map pp68-9 Hostel \$

☎ 921 7115; www.cubahostel.ru; Kazanskaya ul 5; dm R500-650; M Nevsky Pr; ☎

This fun and funky hostel has a super location behind the Kazan Cathedral, just next door to **Tinkoff** (p166). Rainbow-coloured paint covers the walls in dorm rooms that are equipped with metal bunk beds and private lockers. Rooms sleep four to 10 people and prices vary accordingly. Shared bathrooms are very cramped, but usually very clean. Staff members are young and eager to please, if sometimes a little overwhelmed. Breakfast is not included, but there is a kitchen available for guests. Visa support costs extra.

## LITEYNY & SMOLNY

The area around Liteyny and Smolny is quieter than the other central districts of St Petersburg. It's a good choice for art-lovers, jazz connoisseurs and cost-conscious travellers, but the options for eating and nightlife are limited.

## ARBAT NORD HOTEL

Map p84 Boutique Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 703 1899; www.arbat-nord.ru; Artileriyevskaya ul 4; d R6610; M Chernyshevskaya; ☎ ☎

Facing the unsightly Hotel Rus, the sleek and modern Arbat Nord seems to be showing its neighbour how to run a good establishment. The modern rooms are decorated in gold and green hues, with wood furniture and plenty of space. Efficient English-speaking staff are on hand. An excellent Russian-European restaurant is also on site, which is a good thing, as there is not much else in the vicinity.

## AUSTRIAN YARD HOTEL

Map p84 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 579 8235; www.austrianyard.com; Furshtatskaya ul 45; s/d from R3750/3900; M Chernyshevskaya

You must book ahead to stay in the super-secluded place located next to the Austrian consulate. It has four rooms – one on each floor – and they're all good ones. Each is stylishly designed with bright modern furnishings and kitchenettes. Breakfast is a do-it-yourself deal, with plentiful ingredients left in your room so you can eat at any time.

## HOTEL VERA

Map p84 Boutique Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 702 7206; www.hotelvera.ru; Suvorovsky pr 25/16; economy s €82, classic s/d €119/149; M PI Vosstaniya; ☎ ☎

Housed in a fabulous building from 1903, this sweet spot has slanted ceilings, stained glass windows, ceramic tile stoves and ornate mouldings that remember its Art Deco origins. With about 40 rooms, it's an excellent option for travellers who are turned off by the close quarters of a mini-hotel.

## ART HOTEL

Map p84 Boutique Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 740 7585; www.art-hotel.ru; Mokhovaya ul 27/29; s/d €80/110; M Chernyshevskaya; ☎

An ornate wrought-iron gate guards the courtyard of this pre-revolutionary apartment building, now displaying a sort of dilapidated grandeur. Follow the signs to this hidden gem of a hotel, which retains a classical elegance in its 14 rooms. The mood is bourgeois-on-a-budget, with heavy pleated drapes framing the windows, crystal chandeliers and mouldings decorating the ceilings, and a ceramic tile stove in the corridor. In this quiet residential neighbourhood, you are a short walk from the

picturesque banks of the Fontanka River and the leafy **Summer Garden** (p70).

## HOTEL SUVEROV

Map p84 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 271 0859; www.suvorovhotel.spb.ru; 5-ya Sovetskaya ul 3/13; s/d/apt R2850/3350/3400; M PI Vosstaniya; ☎ ☎

On a quiet street and behind the enormous Oktyabrsky Concert Hall, this small but welcoming hotel offers excellent value. Housed on the ground floor of an attractive classical building, 20 comfortable rooms offer all the amenities you need, in a modern (albeit bland) setting. Fully renovated apartments (located nearby) are an interesting alternative for families and groups.

## NILS BED & BREAKFAST

Map p84 Home-Stay \$\$

☎ 923 0575; www.rentroom.org; 5-ya Sovetskaya ul 21; s/d/tr from €65/80/95; M PI Vosstaniya; ☎

Nils' new B&B is an excellent option at a great price. Four spacious rooms share two modern bathrooms, as well as a beautiful light-filled common area and kitchen. Nils renovated this place himself, taking great care to preserve the mouldings, wood floors and other architectural elements. He now exhibits the same consideration in taking care of his guests, who enjoy personal and hospitable treatment.

## PIO ON MOKHOVAYA

Map p84 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 273 3585; www.hotelpio.ru; Mokhovaya ul 39, apt 10 & 12; s/d/tr/q R2200/2800/3200/3600; M Mayakovskaya; ☎

This lovely lodging is the sister property to the **Pio on Griboedov** (opposite). While this place lacks the canal views, the two apartments are midway between the Fontanka River and the Cathedral of the Transfiguration of Our Saviour. Prices are slightly higher here because each of the 11 rooms has a bathroom. Bonus: there is also a Finnish sauna on site.

## HOTEL NEVA

Map p84 Soviet Hotel \$

☎ 578 0504; www.nevahotel.spb.ru; ul Chaykovskogo 17; s/d/tr/q with shared bathroom R960/1440/1800/2400, R2100/2700/3300/4400; M Chernyshevskaya; ☎

One of the city's oldest functioning hotels, the Neva opened its doors in 1913 and has a spectacular central staircase to show for it. Unfortunately the rooms are not quite

as grand – in fact they retain a sort of Soviet scruffiness. But they are all comfortable and clean, offering a decent budget alternative with a bit of historic flare. On the premises is an old-fashioned Russian *banya* (bathhouse), an excellent option for a steam.

### ST PETERSBURG INTERNATIONAL HOSTEL Map p84 Hostel \$

☎ 329 8018; [www.ryh.ru](http://www.ryh.ru); 3-ya Sovetskaya ul 28; dm/d €20/48; PI Vosstaniya; Russia's oldest hostel, this stalwart has been catering to budget travellers for over a decade, so you can be sure they know what they are doing. Large clean dorm rooms have three to five beds, and bathroom and kitchen facilities are modern and clean. There is no shortage of things to do: movies are shown every night and a walking tour departs from here every morning. The hostel is a 10-minute walk from the metro, Moscow Station and Nevsky pr.

### ZIMMER FREI Map p84 Hostel \$

☎ 973 3757, 273 0867; [www.zimmer.ru](http://www.zimmer.ru); Liteyny pr 46, apt 23; dm €20; Mayakovskaya; More like an apartment than a hotel, this little place is accessed from the unmarked door on Liteyny pr (not through the courtyard). Rates (not including breakfast) are cheap for this highly convenient part of town although, as ever, you get what you pay for. The rooms, furnished with wooden floors and single beds, have benefited from a rudimentary renovation. Guests have access to lockers, as well as shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. The charming concierge speaks excellent English.

### SLEEP CHEAP Map p84 Hostel \$

☎ 715 1304; [www.sleepcheap.spb.ru](http://www.sleepcheap.spb.ru); Mokhovaya ul 18, apt 32; dm R700; Chernyshevskaya St Petersburg has scores of new mini-hotels so why not a mini-hostel? This place is tucked into an apartment in the courtyard on a residential street – you would never know it's here if you were not looking. Two dorm rooms (eight beds each) are spotlessly clean, featuring single and double beds so you can sleep with your mate if you have one. Friendly management will arrange for airport/railway pick-ups and visa registration for an extra charge.

### PUPPET HOSTEL Map p84 Hostel \$

☎ 272 5401; [www.hostel-puppet.ru](http://www.hostel-puppet.ru); ul Nekrasova 12; dm/d R670/840; Mayakovskaya This HI-affiliated place once offered accommodation for itinerant puppeteers, so it is not recommended for pupaphobes. Other budget-minded travellers, however, might appreciate the free tickets to the next-door Bolshoy Puppet Theatre (p192) – a fringe benefit for guests. The hostel also offers clean, basic rooms with two to five beds, standard Soviet décor and shared bathroom and kitchen facilities. The staff are friendly, though not always in English. Visa support is not included.

## VLADIMIRSKAYA & VOSSTANIYA

Taking in the busy hub of pl Vosstaniya (Uprising Sq) and the quieter end of Nevsky pr, this is still very much the city centre. Furthermore, it is a short walk or even shorter metro ride away from the Historic Heart. Again, accommodation stretches from five-star to no-star.

### HELVETIA HOTEL & SUITES Map p92 International Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 571 9597; [www.helvetia-ste.ru](http://www.helvetia-ste.ru); ul Marata 11; s/d €270/310; Mayakovskaya; Pass through Helvetia's wrought-iron gates into a wonderfully private and professionally run oasis of calm and class. Next door to the Swiss consulate and just a shopping-bag swing away from Nevsky pr, Helvetia occupies a mansion designed by Swiss architect Augusto Lange in 1828. The courtyard is a delightful place to escape from the city's bustle. Guest rooms are less atmospheric, but make up for it in comfort. The on-site Marius Pub is also useful to know about, as it serves tasty pub grub at all hours (in addition to a mean breakfast buffet).

### NEVSKY FORUM Map p92 Boutique Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 333 0222; [www.forumhotel.ru](http://www.forumhotel.ru); Nevsky pr 69; s/d from R6900/7500, designer room R7800-8400; Mayakovskaya; Nevsky's newest addition offers the expected amenities and sleek urban style of St Petersburg's most sophisticated hotels, but compared to the other luxury properties in town, it caters to a more cost-conscious traveller. All 20 rooms are spacious and comfortable, with king-size beds, big double-paned windows and environmentally friendly cork

flooring. Trendsetters should look to the 'designer' rooms individually decorated with a keen eye toward hip and modern.

### HOTEL DOSTOEVSKY Map p92 International Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 331 3200; [www.dostoevsky-hotel.ru](http://www.dostoevsky-hotel.ru); Vladimirskey pr 19; s/d €191/216; Vladimirskeya; Located above Vladimirsky Passage (p156), the Dostoevsky is a deceptively enormous place, with 200-plus modern rooms, many of which have views of Vladimirskey Cathedral across the road. The 7th-floor Raskolnikov lounge is a delightful place for a drink, offering a magnificent panorama of the square. Breakfast is not included in the price, so head to *Baltic Bread* (p171).

### NEVSKY HOTELS Map p92 Mini-Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 703 3860; [www.hon.ru](http://www.hon.ru); Nevsky pr; Mayakovskaya/PI Vosstaniya Vosstaniya is home to two more outlets of this rapidly expanding mini-hotel chain. Although prices are slightly cheaper than the branches in the Historic Heart, the hotels are still very much in the thick of things. Pleasant rooms overlook quiet courtyards, which is important on this noisy (and often traffic-jammed) part of Nevsky pr:

**Nevsky Central Hotel** (☎ 273 7314; Nevsky pr 90-92; s/d/ste R5250/5950/8400; Mayakovskaya;

**Nevsky Express Hotel** (☎ 277 1888; Nevsky pr 91; s/d R5250/5950; PI Vosstaniya;

### FIFTH CORNER Map p92 Mini-Hotel \$\$

Pyatyy Ugol; ☎ 380 8181; [www.Sugol.ru](http://www.Sugol.ru); Zagorodny pr 13; s/d from R5050/5750; Vladimirskeya; Named after the junction of streets that it overlooks, this business hotel is a curious hybrid. The public areas are rather garish, standing in stark contrast to the warmer toned, streamlined rooms, which have received the nod of approval from style bible *Wallpaper\**. The on-site restaurant Xren has an equally groovy design that makes it a great place for breakfast or a nightcap.

### KRISTOFF HOTEL Map p92 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 571 6643; [www.kristoff.ru](http://www.kristoff.ru); Zagorodny pr 9; s/d from €140/160; Dostoevskaya; It's hard to put your finger on exactly what sets this well-run mini-hotel apart from the pack. The rooms are smartly decorated, but not particularly memorable. The service

from the English-speaking receptionist is friendly and efficient. There's also the popular and cosy restaurant downstairs (where breakfast is served) which, handily, is open round the clock. Add in the reasonable rates and it's hard to beat.

### BROTHERS KARAMAZOV Map p92 Boutique Hotel \$\$

☎ 335 1185; [www.karamazovhotel.ru](http://www.karamazovhotel.ru); Sotsialisticheskaya ul 11a; s/d from R4400/5180; Vladimirskeya; Pack a copy of Fyodor Dostoevsky's final novel to read while staying at this appealing boutique hotel. It manages to mesh contemporary furnishings with late-19th-century elements that the great Russian writer would have found familiar, especially in the more expensive interior rooms, which are named for characters in his books. Incidentally, Dostoevsky penned *The Brothers-K* while living in the neighbourhood, so you'll want to visit the *Dostoevsky Museum* (p93) while you are here.

### OKTOBER HOTEL Map p92 Soviet Hotel \$\$

Oktiabrskaya Gostinitsa; ☎ 277 6330; [www.oktober-hotel.spb.ru](http://www.oktober-hotel.spb.ru); Ligovskyy pr 10; s/d/ste R4200/5200/7200; PI Vosstaniya; Now fully privatised, this former bastion of Soviet-style hotel management is showing promising signs of revitalisation, with a professional, friendly approach to guests and improved room décor and amenities. The hotel is in two buildings and many visitors quite rightly prefer the smaller 'Filial' on the corner of Nevsky pr and Ligovskyy pr – it has surprisingly spacious, not unpleasantly furnished rooms and a restaurant that harks back to the building's pre-revolutionary era.

## SENNAYA

Directly south of the Historic Heart is the Sennaya neighbourhood, centred on Sennaya pl (the Haymarket of Dostoevsky's times). The district provides easy access to the city's main sights, especially if you stay on the north side of Sennaya pl. Two metro lines run through here, linking Sennaya to the rest of the city.

### ARKADIA Map p97 Boutique Hotel \$\$

☎ 314 1900; [www.arkadiahotel.ru](http://www.arkadiahotel.ru); nab reki Moyki 58; s/d from R5440/5760; Sadovaya; On the banks of the Moyka River, hidden away inside a flower-filled courtyard, this

lovely little hotel provides a welcome respite from the city's crowds and chaos. Warm hues, wood floors and natural lighting characterise the guest rooms; the on-site sauna and swimming pool provide added luxury.

### GOLDEN AGE RETRO HOTEL

Map p97

Mini-Hotel \$\$

**Zolotaya Seredina**; ☎ 710 8351; [www.retrohotel.ru](http://www.retrohotel.ru); **Stolyarny per 10/12, code 44**; s/d with shared bathroom R1600/1900, R2500/2800; **M Sadovaya**; 📍 Tucked into a quiet courtyard in the narrow streets north of Sennaya pl, this friendly little hotel is one of St Pete's best bargains. These are the streets where roamed Fyodor Dostoevsky, the foremost writer of the Golden Age of Literature. A few antiques are scattered around the hotel premises to further justify its classification as a 'retro' hotel. Overall, the old-fashioned atmosphere is pleasant but not overbearing, as most furniture and facilities are quite modern.

### ANDREY & SASHA'S HOMESTAY

Map p97

Home-Stay \$

☎ 315 3330; [asamatuga@mail.ru](mailto:asamatuga@mail.ru); **nab kanala Griboedova 49**; d €60; **M Sadovaya** Energetic owners Andrey and Sasha extend the warmest of welcomes to travellers who pass through St Petersburg. This is the biggest of three apartments they rent out (by the room or in their entirety) – all are centrally located and eclectically decorated. Andrey and Sasha have chipped back plaster to the brick walls, laid terracotta-tile floors (with underfloor heating) and installed iron candelabras. The bedrooms (two to four in each apartment) seem bigger than they actually are, thanks to the use of enormous mirrors. Bathrooms are shared, as are kitchen facilities. Socialising is definitely encouraged, and your hosts will likely invite you to join them sipping wine by the fire or drinking coffee on the rooftop.

### HOSTEL ON SADOVAYA

Map p97

Hostel \$

**Hostel Na Sadovoy**; ☎ 314 8357; [www.budget-travel.spb.ru](http://www.budget-travel.spb.ru); **Sadovaya ul 53**; dm/s/d with shared bathroom €17/44/46, s/d €52/80; **M Sadovaya** Back in the day, Communist party apparatchiks used to stay here when they came to visit Leningrad. These days, budget travellers can enjoy the same Soviet service and style, as one portion of the cement block has been transformed into this friendly, funky hostel. Nobody speaks English downstairs, but the

staff that run the hostel (on the 4th floor) know exactly what backpackers need.

## MARIINSKY

Directly west of the Historic Heart, the neighbourhood around the Mariinsky Theatre is traversed by canals as the city tails off into the docklands. There are some charming accommodation options here, but be prepared to cab it or walk long distances, as there's no metro station in the entire area.

### ALEXANDER HOUSE

Map p102

Boutique Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 575 3877; [www.a-house.ru](http://www.a-house.ru); **nab kanala Kryukova 27**; s/d from €150/170; **M Sennaya Pl or Tekhnologicheskoy Institut**; 📍 Owners Alexander and Natalya converted this historic building opposite Nikolsky Cathedral, styling each of the 14 spacious rooms after their favourite international cities. The themes are not laboured: a ceramic iguana clinging to the ceiling beam in the Barcelona suite; a tropical feel to Bali; Moorish touches in Marrakesh. And yes, a room named St Petersburg, with exposed brick walls and windows overlooking the canal. Lovely common areas include a fireplace-warmed lounge and a vine-laden courtyard.

### MATISOV DOMIK

Map p102

Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 318 5464; [www.matisov.spb.ru](http://www.matisov.spb.ru); **nab reki Pryazhka 3/1**; s/d standard R3000/4350, renovated R4050/5100; **M Sadovaya** About a 10-minute walk west of the Mariinsky Theatre, this small hotel is fronted by a charming garden with a gurgling fountain and pottery gnomes. Plain, monochromatic rooms have modern furniture, but few creature comforts. It's a secure, quiet and slightly off-beat place to stay, with very pleasant and helpful staff. It is, however, rather awkwardly located on tiny Madison Island. While it overlooks the Pryazhka River, it's a 20-minute walk from just about anything else.

### GUESTHOUSE ON GALERNAYA

Map p102

Mini-Hotel \$\$

**Gustavo Dom na Galernaya**; ☎ 314 9936; [galernaya@mail.ru](mailto:galernaya@mail.ru); **Galernaya ul 16**; d R2500-2800, tr 2850-3200; **M Sadovaya**; 📍 Putting the 'mini' in mini-hotel, this tiny guesthouse has only three rooms, which pretty much guarantees that guests receive attentive service. Rooms are small but

bright, with stylish furniture and brand new bathrooms. The location is optimal – just walk under the archway from pl Dekabristov.

### HOUSE IN KOLOMNA

Map p102

Mini-Hotel \$

**Domik v Kolomne**; ☎ 710 8351; [www.colomna.nm.ru](http://www.colomna.nm.ru); **nab kanala Griboedova 174a**; s/d/tr with shared bathroom €34/38/42, s/d €52/58; **M Sadovaya**; 📍 Pushkin's family once rented rooms in this house, although the atmosphere evokes a Russian flat from the 1970s rather than anything antique. It may not be flash, but the friendly staff are eager to welcome foreign guests; they even have a Lonely Planet guidebook on hand for reference should you have forgotten yours. Meals (not included) are served in a small on-site café; otherwise it's a 15-minute walk to Sennaya pl.

## VASILEVSKY ISLAND

Once planned to be the centre of Peter's city, Vasilevsky Island is a large and disparate place. Staying at the tip of the island around the Strelka (tongue of land) and university gives you a great base for exploring St Petersburg, but you probably don't want to go too far west.

### PARK INN – PRIBALTIYSKAYA

Map pp108–9

Hotel \$\$\$

☎ 329 2626; [www.parkinn.com.ru](http://www.parkinn.com.ru); **ul Koroblestroiteley 14**; s/d/ste R5250/5600/10,500; **M Primorskaya**; 📍 If you – like Peter the Great – are only happy when you are near the sea, you might consider staying in the Park Inn – Pribaltiyskaya, the one hotel in the city with wonderful views over the Gulf of Finland. At the western end of Vasilevsky Island, it is miles from the city centre and not even that close to the metro, but it is like its own little city with 1200 rooms, two restaurants and a bowling alley on site. And the fun-filled **Waterville Aquapark** (p197) guarantees you'll go home waterlogged.

### PRESTIGE HOTEL ON VASILEVSKY

Map pp108–9

Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 328 5338; [www.prestige-hotels.com](http://www.prestige-hotels.com); **2-ya liniya i 3-ya liniya 52**; s/d standard R2700/4200, renovated R3400/4800; **M Vasileostrovskaya**; 📍 Slightly smaller – but no less spacey – than the Prestige Hotel on Gorokhovaya. See p204 for a full review.

### SHELFORT HOTEL

Map pp108–9

Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 328 0555; [www.shelfort.ru](http://www.shelfort.ru); **2-ya liniya i 3-ya liniya 26**; s/d R2600/4200, ste R5400-5650; **M Vasileostrovskaya**; 📍 In a convenient-but-quiet location close to the metro, this handsome building houses an excellent mini-hotel on its first two floors. Two sweet suites feature tiled furnaces that add an antique authenticity to an already classy place. For those not fortunate enough to score the spacious suites, the regular rooms are still pretty nice, sporting classically simple furnishings, high ceilings and plenty of space.

### SPB VERGAZ HOTEL

Map pp108–9

Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 327 8883; **6-ya liniya i 7-ya liniya 70**; s/d/apt €90/140/160, breakfast €6; **M Vasileostrovskaya**; 📍 A place called 'Vergaz' doesn't sound like the most promising of prospects, but this classy property actually has a lot going for it. It's owned by a Franco-Russian gas piping company, so you get French- and English-speaking staff, and arty photos of St Petersburg and Paris hanging side by side in the lobby. There's a wide range of spacious, well-equipped rooms, some with splendid views across to the onion-domed church next door.

## PETROGRAD SIDE

The Petrograd Side is appealing in that it offers its own neighbourhood attractions, restaurants and boutiques, so you need not be trekking into the centre all the time. When you do, however, two metro lines will take you across the river in a flash.

### APART-HOTEL KRONVERK

Map pp114–15

Hotel \$\$

☎ 703 3663; [www.kronverk.com](http://www.kronverk.com); **ul Blokchina 9**; s/d R3680/3840, apt from R6400; **M Sportivnaya**; 📍

If the baroque, rococo and Style Moderne architecture of St Petersburg leaves you hankering after something more contemporary, then here's a place for you. Occupying the upper floors of a slick new business centre, the Kronverk offers appealingly modern rooms with self-catering facilities. Frosted glass and streamlined black paneling create a crisp reception area where

The English-speaking staff are efficient and professional.

## HOTEL EURASIA

Map pp114–15 Mini-Hotel \$\$

☎ 230 4432; [www.eurasia-hotel.ru](http://www.eurasia-hotel.ru); Gatchinskaya ul 5; s/d R2800/3100, s/d ste from R3450/3600; Chkalovskaya

In an attractive 19th-century building, the Eurasia has 18 comfortable rooms that are modern, if not memorable (but frankly, when it comes to mini-hotels, that may be a good thing). White walls and plain furniture guarantee comfort, cleanliness and sound sleeping. This hotel group operates three other mini-hotels on the Petrograd Side, so if the Eurasia is full, staff should be able to point you in the direction of something similar.

## HOTEL AURORA

Map pp114–15 Mini-Hotel \$

☎ 233 3641; [www.hotel-aurora.ru](http://www.hotel-aurora.ru); Malaya Posadskaya ul 15; s/d with shared bathroom R1575/2100, s/d R2275/2800; Gorkovskaya

Tucked in behind the Peter & Paul Fortress, this is a spunky little mini-hotel offering affordable, friendly accommodation. Spacious rooms sport a charming, Soviet-style décor, with parquet floors, rickety beds and monochrome linens. Nonetheless, shiny new bathrooms and kitchen facilities make this an excellent deal.

## VYBORG SIDE

There are not too many reasons to stay in the expanse of the Vyborg Side. But there is one option with easy access to the city centre.

### AIRPORT ACCOMMODATION

If you are looking for an easy-in, easy-out hotel from the airport, consider these options near Moskovskaya pl:

**Park Inn – Pulkovskaya** (Map p65; ☎ 740 3900; [www.parkinn.com.ru](http://www.parkinn.com.ru); pl Pobedy 1; s/d/ste R5250/5600/10,500; Moskovskaya; ) This Soviet remake has a concrete exterior that fits right in with the architectural brutalism of the surrounding area, while inside an unintentional retro feeling of the 1960s prevails. Rooms are spacious and pleasantly furnished; some also afford splendid views of the Monument to the Heroic Defenders of Leningrad.

**German Club** (Nemetsky Klub; Map p65; ☎ 371 5104; [www.hotelgermanclub.com](http://www.hotelgermanclub.com); ul Gastello 20; s/d R2270/2700; Moskovskaya; ) Promising ‘Russian hospitality and German order’, this is a surprisingly convivial mini-hotel. The lobby is reminiscent of an Alpine chalet, while spacious rooms provide regular Russian comfort.

**All Seasons Hostel** (Map p65; ☎ 327 1070; [www.hostel.ru](http://www.hostel.ru); Yakovlevsky per 11, 4th fl; dm €10-12, s/d/tr €40/40/42; Park Pobedy) The closest hostel to the airport. On the 4th floor of an early Soviet era apartment block, it looks and feels like a traditional Russian hostel. Rooms are the usual plain affairs with pine-framed single beds. No breakfast is served, but there is a spacious kitchen that doubles as a TV room.

## HOTEL ST PETERSBURG

Map pp122–3 Soviet Hotel \$\$

%380 1919; [www.hotel-spb.ru](http://www.hotel-spb.ru); Pirogovskaya nab 5/2; r standard R2300-3400, renovated R4000-4600; Pl Lenina;

This is not the prettiest building in St Petersburg, but then again, you can’t see it when you are inside. In fact, when you are inside, you will be admiring lovely views of the Peter & Paul Fortress or the Admiralteyskaya embankment across the Neva River. Rooms are perfectly comfortable, while the more expensive ones are downright classy. The place is huge so there are plenty of facilities on site.

## SOUTHERN ST PETERSBURG

Southern St Petersburg doesn’t have a lot to offer the independent traveller, unless you’re looking for easy access to the airport (see [below](#)). Otherwise, a handful of huge post-Soviet monoliths usually cater to tourist groups.

## AZIMUT

Map pp146–7 Hotel \$\$

☎ 740 2640; [www.azimuthotels.ru](http://www.azimuthotels.ru); Lermontovskiy pr 43/1; s/d standard R2600/3100, renovated R3000/3900; Tekhnologicheskyy Institut; This former Intourist monolith finally changed its name from the long-standing Sovietskaya Hotel when it was bought by this fast-growing Russian chain. Of its many, many rooms, there are a slew of different categories, some of which have been nicely modernised. It still caters largely to tour groups who are indifferent to its hideous exterior, which mars the landscape along the otherwise lovely Fontanka River.

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