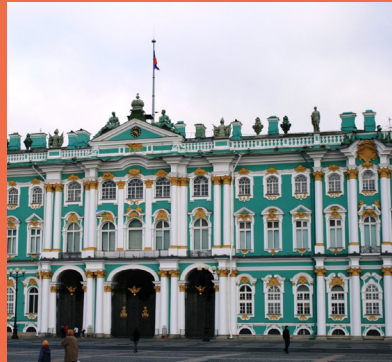


ST. PETERSBURG

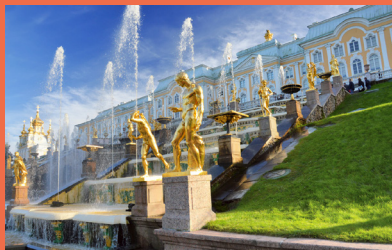
: THE WINDOW TO EUROPE, THE VENICE OF THE NORTH, THE CITY OF WHITE NIGHT

On the Neva River, Saint Petersburg is the second largest city in Russia and arguably its most breathtaking. Founded by Tsar Peter the Great in 1703, St. Petersburg was the country's capital for a time.



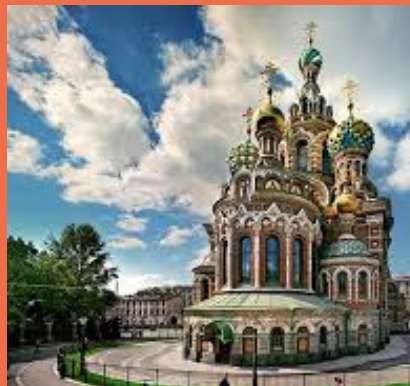
A product of the imagination—and iron will—of Peter the Great, the city is a busy tableau of architectural whimsies (Neoclassical colonnades, palaces of yellow and mint green). Peter envisioned his imperial capital

as a window into Europe, and it has long been a center of culture and sophistication, with some of the world's best art and ballet



St. Petersburg is a Russian port city on the Baltic Sea. It was the imperial capital for 2 centuries, having been founded

In 1703 by Peter the Great, subject of the city's iconic "Bronze Horseman" statue.



It remains Russia's cultural center, with venues such as the Mariinsky Theatre hosting opera and ballet, and the State Russian Museum showcasing Russian art, from Orthodox icon paintings to Kandinsky works.