



HOTEL ASTORIA

ST PETERSBURG

SUMMER 2026

GRAND OPENING OF THE FOUNTAINS IN PETERHOF

Peterhof, the legendary imperial palace and park ensemble, is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Russia's most magnificent royal residences. Its annual Fountain Opening Festival marks the grand start of the summer season. The Grand Cascade awakens from its winter silence. Golden statues, dancing water columns, and a magnificent water-pyrotechnic show unfold before the Great Palace. Thousands gather to celebrate as the gardens burst back to life. A royal beginning to summer, where architecture and water unite in breathtaking harmony.





YELAGIN ISLAND



Yelagin Island, home to one of St. Petersburg's most beautiful palace parks, hosts the city's main spring floral event. Every May, the annual Tulip Festival transforms the island into a living canvas of colour.

Tens of thousands of rare tulips bloom along the palace park alleys, creating waves of red, yellow, and pink.

Guests wander past flower art installations, enjoy open-air theatre, and listen to classical concerts on the grass.

A spring fairytale just minutes from the city centre, where nature puts on its most elegant show.

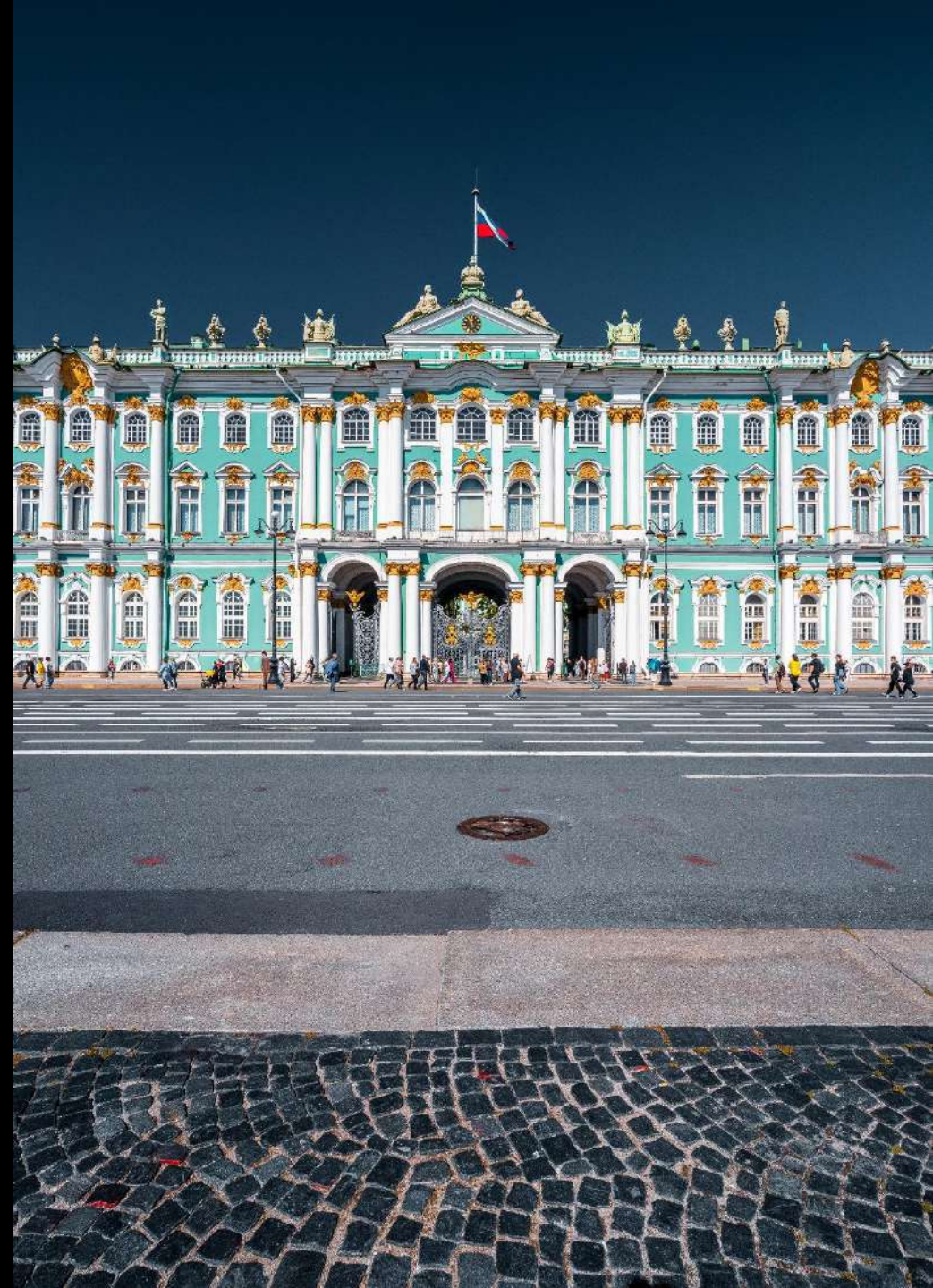
ST PETERSBURG CITY DAY – MAY 27, 2026

Every year on May 27, St. Petersburg celebrates its founding – one of the city's main holidays, when the entire city turns into a grand stage.

Founded in 1703 by Tsar Peter the Great, the city honours more than three centuries of imperial history.

The annual open-air classical music gala on Palace Square becomes the central musical event of the day. Under the open sky, opera singers, dancers, and symphony orchestras perform masterpieces of world classics against the majestic backdrop of the Winter Palace and the General Staff building.

Free, magnificent, and full of festive spirit. For one evening, the heart of St. Petersburg beats faster, and every guest becomes part of the celebration.





MARIINSKY THEATRE STARS OF WHITE NIGHTS



The Mariinsky Theatre is the crown jewel of imperial Russian culture, a breathtaking palace of gold and velvet where ballet and opera reach their most legendary heights.

Its annual Stars of the White Nights festival is one of the largest and most prestigious music festivals in Russia, held under the direction of Valery Gergiev.

Since its founding in 1993, it has become a true symbol of the summer cultural season, transforming the city into a world theatre capital.

The programme features over 100 events: opera and ballet premieres, symphony concerts with world-class stars, and chamber ensemble performances.

A unique opportunity to witness both classical masterpieces and the season's most anticipated premieres in the magical atmosphere of the White Nights.

SCARLET SAILS

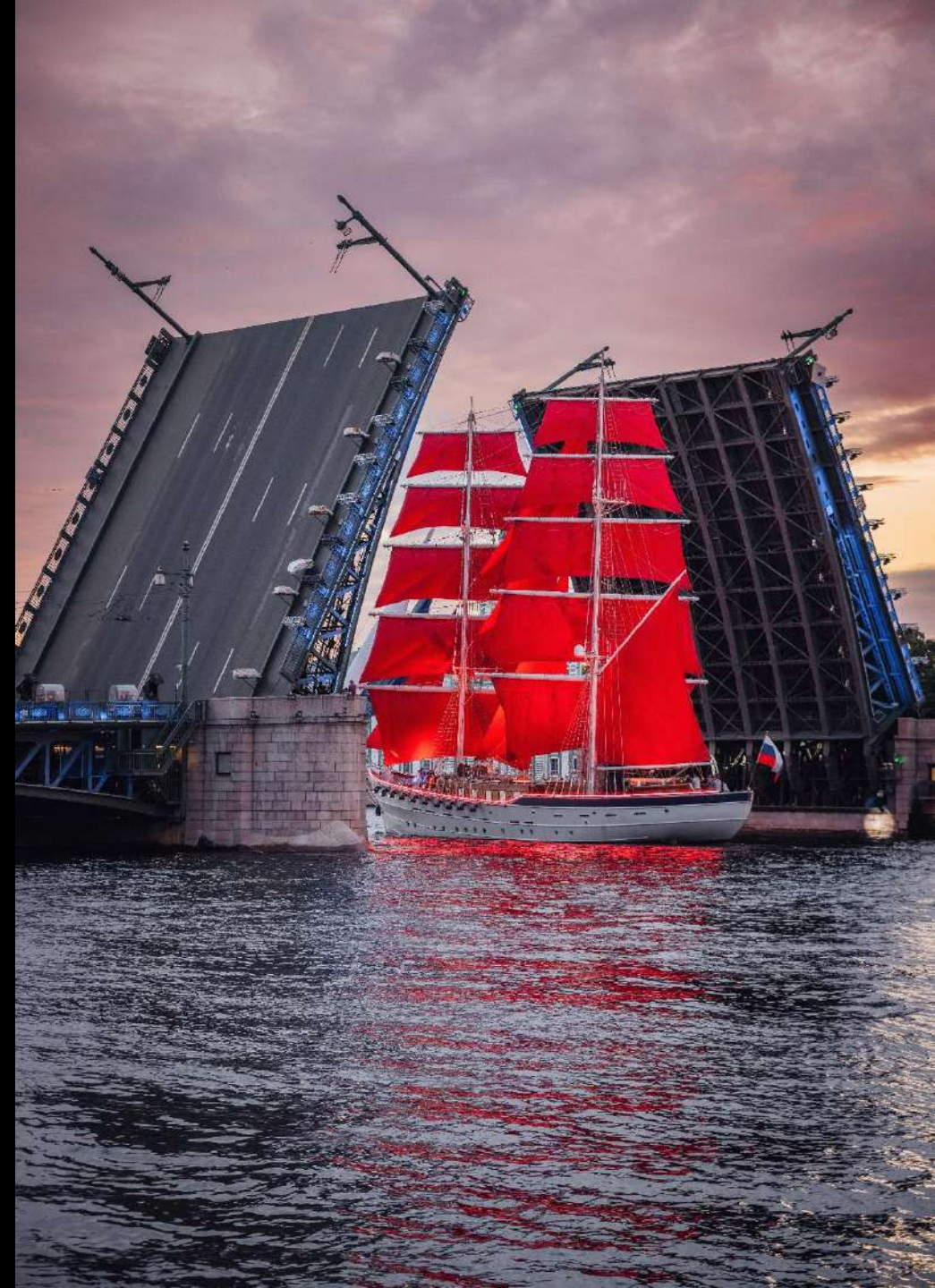
Scarlet Sails is the main celebration for Russian graduates and the undisputed emblem of St. Petersburg, annually drawing tens of thousands of guests from across the country and around the world.

In 2026, the celebration takes place on June 27.

The night begins with a grand concert on Palace Square featuring Russian pop stars.

The climax comes when the brig "Russia" glides along the Neva under crimson sails, accompanied by a spectacular water-pyrotechnic show and fireworks.

A night of dreams, youth, and unforgettable magic.



FESTIVAL “OPERA FOR EVERYBODY”

Opera for Everybody is a unique St. Petersburg festival of open-air opera that presents masterpieces of world classics at iconic historical venues across the city. The main feature of the festival is free admission to all performances, making opera accessible to the widest audience.

Performances take place in central historic locations such as Peter and Paul Fortress, Catherine Park in Tsarskoye Selo, Yusupov Garden, and other magnificent settings where architecture becomes part of the performance. The city's most beautiful landmarks serve as living stage sets.



FESTIVAL “PIANISSIMO”

The Pianissimo Festival brings together young talented pianists from Russia and abroad, offering them a unique opportunity to perform in spaces of special cultural and historical significance.

In St. Petersburg, concerts take place in the State Hermitage and the Grand Peterhof Palace, with the legendary Hotel Astoria as an official partner.

Each concert is a dialogue between classical music and the listener, where history, architecture, and the mastery of young performers merge into a single artistic experience.



SINGING BRIDGES

One of St. Petersburg's most romantic rituals takes place every White Night season. The annual Singing Bridges festival turns the opening of the Palace Bridge into a symphony of light and music. The bridge rises slowly to the sound of orchestral music, while laser projections dance across the dark water. Every White Night, thousands gather along the embankments to watch architecture, light, and melody become one. The Neva stretches wide, the bridge rises, and for a few minutes, time seems to stop. Pure magic.

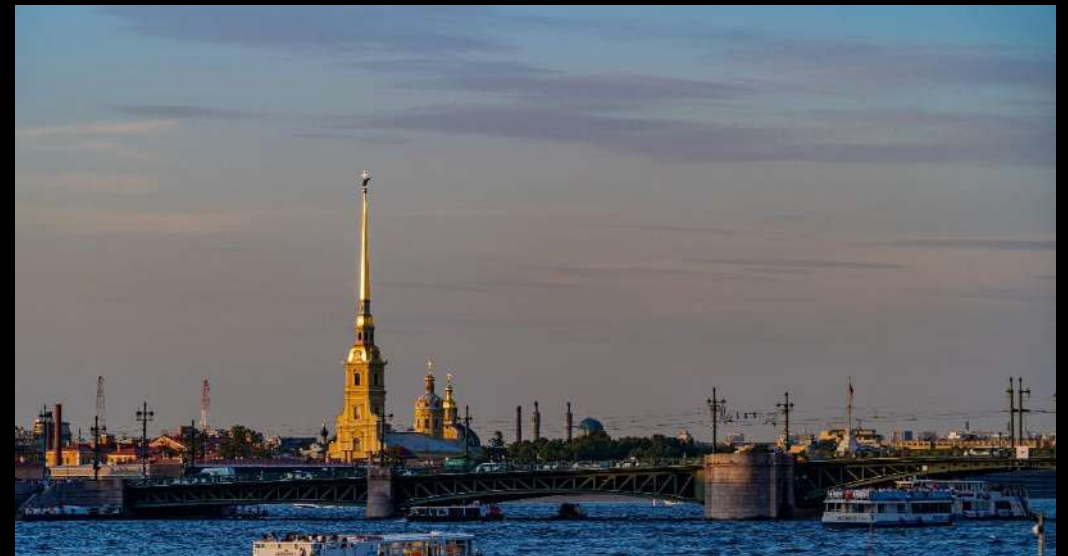
SAND SCULPTURE FESTIVAL



The historic Peter and Paul Fortress, the original citadel of St. Petersburg, transforms each summer into an open-air museum of sand.

The annual Sand Sculpture Festival invites master sculptors from around the world to create castles, mythical heroes, and fairy-tale scenes from thousands of tons of sand. Every detail astonishes.

A magical experience for families and art lovers alike, where an ancient material tells new stories under the summer sun.



NEW HOLLAND

New Holland is a historic man-made island in the heart of St. Petersburg, once a naval warehouse and now a beloved cultural oasis.

Every year the island opens its Summer Theatre, transforming the courtyard of the famous "Bottle" building into a vibrant venue for concerts, performances by academic and experimental musicians, independent theatre tours, and art performances.

Events take place on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Green lawns, restored red-brick warehouses, and a quiet pond make this a favourite place for a long, lazy afternoon.



BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Peter the Great Botanical Garden is a green sanctuary in the centre of the city, one of the oldest botanical gardens in Russia.

Its seasonal flower exhibitions are a highlight of the summer calendar.

Peonies explode in colour in June, phlox fills the air with fragrance in July, and golden maples light up the paths in autumn.

Quiet trails, greenhouses filled with exotic plants, and a dendrarium of centuries-old trees await. Perfect for a slow, restoring walk away from the bustle. Nature at its most generous.

SUBURBAN PALACE PARKS

Just beyond the city, the summer residences of Russian emperors await. T

hese imperial estates — Pushkin (Tsarskoye Selo) with its golden Catherine Palace and famous Amber Room; Pavlovsk with 600 hectares of English landscape park, statues, and peaceful lakes; Gatchina with mysterious underground passages; and Oranienbaum with its exquisite Chinese Palace — offer a serene escape into royal history.

Green alleys, classical pavilions, and fresh air. A whole day of walking, wonder, and quiet beauty.





GULF OF FINLAND COAST



The northern coast of the Gulf of Finland has long been a favourite retreat for Russian royalty, writers, and artists.

Only 45 minutes from the city, a different world begins.

Pine forests meet sandy beaches and the calm waters of the Finnish Gulf.

Fresh seafood restaurants sit right on the shore, serving local delicacies with a sea view.

Spa sanatoriums surrounded by nature offer wellness and quiet.

A perfect escape for relaxation, a leisurely lunch, and a long walk along the water's edge.

RIVER CRUISES

St. Petersburg reveals its best face from the water.

The city's network of rivers and canals offers a unique perspective on its imperial architecture.

Meteor hydrofoils take you to Peterhof in just 30 minutes — like flying over the waves.

Evening restaurant cruises offer dinner and live music as palaces glide past.

Small canal boats slip under low bridges, revealing hidden courtyards and quiet corners.

And at night, cruises under the opening drawbridges create a memory that lasts forever.





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