



My city is one of the youngest of the largest European cities.

It was founded on May 27, 1703 by the Russian emperor Peter the Great. About 200 years it was a capital of Russia.

According to the UN rating, St. Petersburg occupies the eighth place in the list of the most attractive cities in the world for tourism.



Its unique architecture, historical monuments and museums account for the world fame of St. Petersburg. These include the Hermitage, the Russian Museum, the Museum of the Russian Academy of Arts, as well as the Mariinsky Theater, the Academy of the Russian Ballet, the Philharmony, the University, the Russian National Library, the Pushkin House, and the parks

and palaces of Peterhof, Tsarsoe Selo, and Pavlovsk.



In 2003, major St. Petersburg hotels hosted some 1.5 million visitors, more than 700,000 of them international. According to the Northwest Border Guard District Authority, St.

Petersburg and northwestern Russia received 3,112,632 visitors from 190 countries worldwide in 2003, 13.7% more than in 2002. This number excludes foreign nationals arriving via other sections of the Russian frontier, as well as around 800,000 domestic visitors. Citizens of Finland, Germany, the United States, the UK, Italy and France are the most frequent visitors to the region.

According to industry analysts, sea cruises is one of the most dynamic segments of the travel industry at the moment. As the numbers of prospective sea cruise travelers increase, new, larger cruise ships are built to accommodate 3,000 passengers and more, and the geography of cruise destinations expands.

St. Petersburg has been acclaimed as one of the most attractive cruise destinations in Europe. During the 2003 summer navigation season, St. Petersburg hosted some 203,000 cruise travelers not to mention 90,000 crew members, up 40% from 2002. 260 cruise ships visited the city, 20% more than the pervious summer. For several years St. Petersburg has remained one of the top three Baltic Sea ports in the number of cruise ship calls and travelers.



The highest percentages of sea cruise travelers came to St. Petersburg from the United States (31%), the UK (20%), Germany (17%), and France (3%).

St. Petersburg routinely wins the international competitions, held annually by the international Dream World Cruise Destination magazine among cruise ports on Europe's Atlantic waterfront and the Baltic Sea, in the 'Most Hospitable Port' and 'Most Frequently Visited Port' categories. In 1999, St. Petersburg won in the 'Most Frequently Visited Port' category, and in 2000, 2001, and 2002, in the 'Most Attractive Port of Call' category. Our city also won commendations in the 'Best Tour Guides' and 'Best Suppliers of Goods and Services' categories. St. Petersburg won in the 'Best Excursion Services for Tour Groups' category for 2003 at the March 2004 Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention show in Miami, USA.

There are over **180** hospitality facilities in St. Petersburg, offering some **17,000 rooms**, or **33,500 beds** in different classes and price ranges.



In may 2003 we celebrated the 300-annivercary of our City. EU-Russia Summit was at 31 th may 2003: presidents of European countries visited our City.





27 th Oktober 2003

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haakon Magnus of Norway with Govener of Saint petersburg Valentina Matvienko

