## ST. PETERSBURG IS A HISTORICAL PEARL OF THE EUROPE

St. Petersburg is Russia's second-largest city in terms of population, and one of the country's leading industrial, research and cultural centres. It is rightly considered one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The cultural landmarks in the city's historic downtown core are listed as UNESCO world heritage sites.

Its advantageous geographical location makes St. Petersburg one of the world's critical transportation and trading hubs. Heavy international road, rail, air and marine traffic travels through the city on a daily basis. This is driving expansion of the city's economic ties and leading to dramatic growth in its industrial potential: experiencing active development are such sectors as energy, heavy machine-building, the automotive industry, the pharmaceutical industry, and a burgeoning IT and telecommunications cluster.

Recent years have witnessed the implementation of ambitious investment projects targeting development of the city's infrastructure. A new international airport has been put into operation, and the curtain has gone up on the second stage of the Mariinsky Theatre. Construction is ongoing on the Western High-speed Diameter, a toll motorway, as well as on the football stadium on Krestovsky Island. What's more, the ExpoForum Convention and Exhibition Centre has been fully commissioned and is now operating successfully.

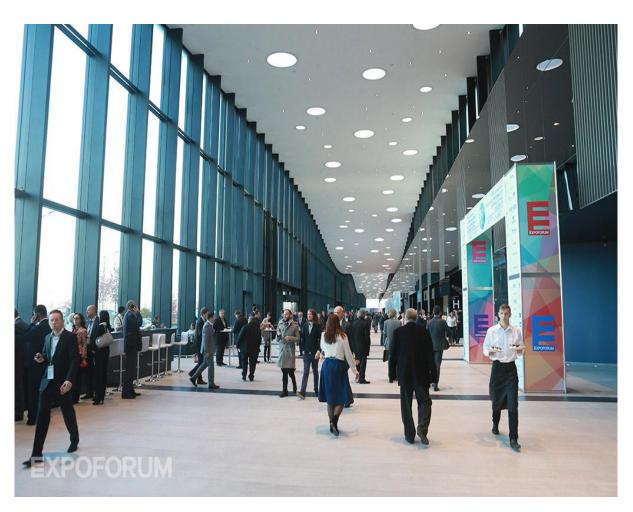
The unique atmosphere of St. Petersburg stems from its rich scientific and cultural potential. St. Petersburg has truly earned the right to its lofty name of "open-air museum." The city boasts hundreds of museums, palaces, monuments, squares, fountains, and exhibitions both temporary and permanent.

St. Petersburg is also a universally-recognised business-tourism hub. Every year, the city hosts such world-class events as the G8 Summit, the G20 Summit, the St. Petersburg World Economic Forum, the Russia-ASEAN Business Forum, and many more. St. Petersburg's prominence as a truly-European convention centre has been bolstered with the opening of the new ExpoForum Convention and Exhibition Centre, capable of hosting events of any scale at the highest calibre.

## **EXPOFORUM Convention and Exhibition Centre**







## **Leading Tourist sights**



