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**Project**

**«PETER THE GREAT'S CITY»**

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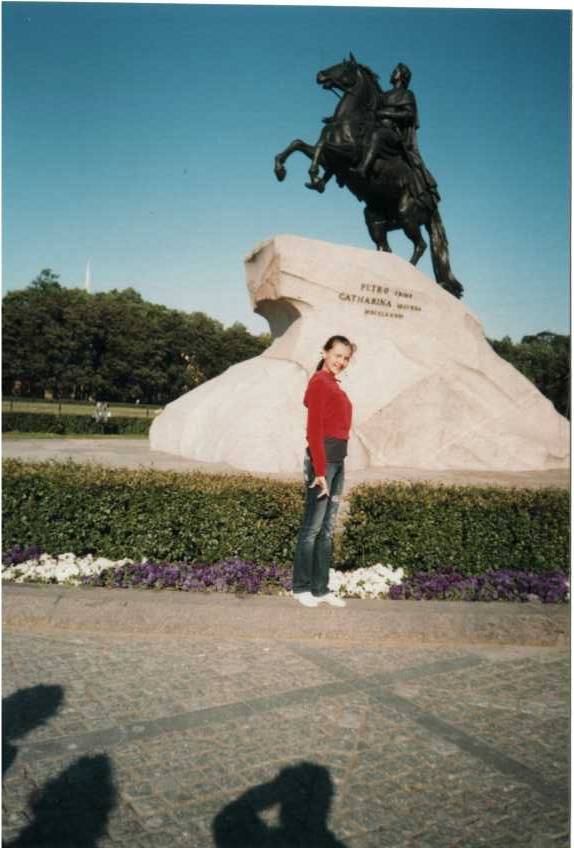
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I dreamed of traveling to Saint Petersburg for many years. Last summer I was lucky to visit one of the most impressive and vivid cities in the world- St. Petersburg. The moment I stepped down from my train, Alexander Pushkin came to my mind with his «The Bronze Horseman».

***The Bronze Horseman***

**I love thee, Peter's proud creation,**

**Thy princely stateliness of line,**

**The regal Neva coursing, patient,**

**Twixt sober walls of massive stone;**

**The iron lacework of thy fences,**

**Thy wistful, moonless, lustrous nights,**

**Dusk- clothed but limpid...**

***Alexander Pushkin***

Let's start with a brief history of the city on 101 Islands.

The lands along the Neva River have belonged to the Ancient Russian state since the 9th century.

In 1240, when most of Southern and Central Russia was fighting the Mongol invasion, a Swedish force landed on the banks of the Neva River. On July 15, 1240 the Novgorod troops of Prince Alexander fought the battle of Neva. The Russians won and Prince Alexander was given the name Alexander Nevsky

In 1617 the Neva River area became a part of Sweden.

He wanted to give Russia what he called "a window into Europe". Peter I made his army stronger, gave his soldiers better weapons and won the Battle of Poltava.

He gave Russia many new things, including the city of St Petersburg,

Looking for a site for his new fortress Peter the Great chose the island of Enisaari, which was known to the Russians as Zayachii Ostrov. On May, 16 1703, the St. Petersburg fortress was founded.

First St. Petersburg was a small town around the fortress, but by 1712 it was big enough to become the new Russian capital.

Catherine the Great got power in 1762.

She was the first to move into the Winter Palace. Catherine started a royal art collection which later became the world-famous Hermitage.

St. Petersburg was the capital of Russia from 1712 till 1918. It was built by the prominent European and Russian architects. The city is famous for its fairy architectural ensembles of the 18-19 centuries.

I recommend you to visit Peter. I hope my project will be your guide.

**Day 1, 19.06.09.**

Saint Petersburg. I had read about this great city and its founder, Peter the Great. But as the Russia proverb would put it," it's better to see it one time, that to hear about it a thousand times".

It's 5.45 a.m. At last we've arrived in my dream city. My cousins with her boy- friend are on the platform. They are seeing as in. It's very pleasant, when somebody is caring of you!!! Now we are at the station. The first thing that catches my attention is the monument to Peter the Great that stands inside the train station named after Moscow. Our relatives have brought us to their flat. It's not far from Frunzenskaya metro station. Having unpacked our luggage, we go for a walk about

the central streets of St. Petersburg.

***Nevsky Prospect***

***"Nothing could be finer ; Nevsky Prospect***

***it is the be-all and***

***end-all. It positively gleams and***

***sparkles - the jewel of our***

***capital!***

***Nikolai Gogol***

We begin to stroll through Nevsky Prospect. I’ve learnt much about it. Nevsky Prospect was first called "Great Perspective Road"; it was the main artery for commerce and transportation. It is a street that has caught the eyes of foreign visitors, photographers, painters and writers. It stands as part of the myth that is St. Petersburg.

The name for the street comes from the Alexander Nevsky Monastery that is at the end of the Prospect, which Peter the Great began to build in 1713.

Among the hundreds of buildings that line Nevsky Prospect are many of St. Petersburg's most impressive churches and homes. The Kazan Cathedral which was styled after St. Peter's in Rome faces out on Nevsky Prospect.

Further down the Prospect is the Anichkov Palace, built in 1741-1750. Nearby to the Anichkov Palace can be found the Anichkov Bridge. The bridge is a popular landmark for the city of St. Petersburg. It is often considered the end of Nevsky Prospect. Nevsky Prospect makes a stunning finish at the Admiralty.

Two of Russia largest stores can be found on the Prospect: the Dom Knigi bookstore and the Gostiny Dvor. Numerous other stores dot the Prospect, each with its own bit of tradition and history.

Most often Nevsky was used as a backdrop in many famous poems and stories. Gogol used Nevsky in various works like "The Overcoat" and "The Nose", where the well-to-do and high society appear and play a part on Nevsky Prospect. Gogol was not alone in using Nevsky Prospect. Fyodor Dostoevsky lived along Nevsky and gave his readers a further glimpse into life on and around the Prospect. Dostoevsky often makes reference to Nevsky in his novel Crime and Punishment as the main character roams the city thinking of his crime and moving about his day.

**PALACE SQUARE**

Now we are on Palace Square, which is considered to be the main square of the city and serves as a good example of how different styles can be combined in the most elaborate way. We admire the view the picturesque Baroque Winter Palace (built in 1754-62).

Across the square, on the southern side, a classical yellow-and-white building of the former Imperial Army General Staff (built in 1819-29 by Carlo Rossi) encircles the Southern side of the square and through its central arch, designed as a Triumphal Arch of the Classical World; one can get to Nevsky Prospect.

On the eastern side a building of the former Royal Guards' General Staff closes the panorama of Palace Square, while on the West the square borders with the Admiralty and the Admiralty Garden. The gilded spire of the Admiralty and the dome of St Isaac's are clearly seen from here. In the middle of the Square the Alexander Column creates an important focal point for this great architectural ensemble.

**ALEXANDER COLUMN**

Our guide tells that this monument was built in honour of the Russian military victory over Napoleon war withNapoleon's France. Named after Emperor Alexander I, who ruled Russia in 1801-25, the column is a terrific piece of architecture and engineering. The Alexander Column , which is the focal point of the Palace Square, was designed by the French-born architect Auguste de Montferrand and built in 1830-34. The pedestal of the Alexander Column is decorated with symbols of military glory.

**THE WINTER PALACE AND THE HERMITAGE MUSEUM**

We get to the Winter Palace. This is great! It's so big! We spend many hours in the Hermitage Museum.

From the 1760s the Winter Palace was the main residence of the Russian Tsars. Magnificently located on the bank of the Neva River, this Baroque-style palace is perhaps the major attraction of St. Petersburg. The green-and-white three-storey palace is truly impressive: it has 1786 doors, 1945 windows and 1057 halls and rooms, many of which are open to the public The Baroque Winter Palace was built in 1754-62 for Empress Elisabeth, daughter of Peter the Great. Nowadays the Whiter Palace, together with four more buildings, houses the extensive collections of the Hermitage. The Hermitage Museum is the largest art gallery in Russia and is among the largest and most respected art museums in the world.

The museum was founded in 1764 when Catherine the Great purchased a collection of 255 paintings from Berlin. After the 1917 revolution it transformed into the State Hermitage. Today the Hermitage houses about three millions exhibits: masterpieces of painting, sculpture and applied arts; drawings and engravings, more than one million coins and medals and archaeological and cultural artefacts. The richest collections of the Hermitage give an opportunity to familiarize with the entire history culture and art of the peoples of Europe and the East from the most ancient times until the present days. It includes works by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Titian, unique collections of Rembrandt, Rubens, French Impressionists (Renoir, Cezanne, Mimet, Monet, Pissarro), plus VanGojph, Matisse. It has been calculated that if you decide to spend only one minute in front of each exhibit, you will have to stay in the Hermitage for 11 years.

The Hermitage has made a great impression on me.

**ST. ISAAC'S CATHEDRAL**

First we go upstairs to the observation desk. What a magical! The city is lying before our eyes. Crowds of people on the square look like ants, chains of cars and buses rush along streets, sightseeing boats are on the Neva. A pleasant voice of a speaker is telling us about a remarkable monument of Russian architecture. .

The history of the construction began in 1710, when the first wooden church was put up in honour of St Isaac of Dalmatia; it was on St Isaac's Day, according to the Orthodox Calendar, that Peter I was born. The present Cathedral is the fourth that stood on this place.

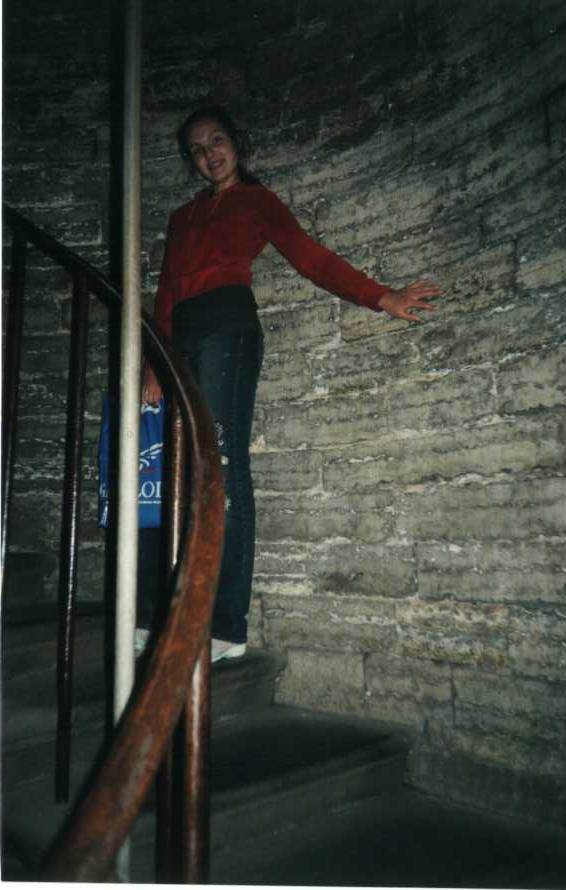
In the early 19th century a contest was announced for the best design of a new cathedral, in which well-known architects took part. In 1818 Alexander I approved a project submitted by A. Montferrand, a talented artist who had just arrived from Paris. The Cathedral took 40 years to be built. St Isaac's Cathedral is one of the largest domed structures in the world. The building, rectangular in its layout, rose 101.5 m high.

My cousin tells that it’s high time to go to the Cathedral. 300 stairs lead us down.

The dome is an original construction, including 3 domes, placed one over the other. The cathedral was completed in 1842, but it took 16 years more to decorate the interior with a lot of lazurite, malachite, porphyry, and other kinds of marble. The walls and vaults of the Cathedral bear paintings and mosaic works made by well-known Russian artists. On the whole more than 200 artists took part on the decor.

When you enter the Cathedral you pass through one of the porticos. The columns are made of single pieces of red granite and weight 80 tons each. Inside the church many of the icons are exquisite mosaics. A large, brightly colored stained glass window of the «Resurrected Christ» takes pride of place inside the main altar. The iconostasis is decorated with 8 malachite and 2 lapis lazuli columns.

Having area of 4 thousands square metres, the Cathedral can hold up to 14 thousand people, now serves as a museum, and services are held on major occasions.



**BRONZE HORSEMAN**

At last we are lucky to see Bronze Horseman, one symbols of the city. An impressive monument to the founder of St. Petersburg -Peter the Great - stands on Senatskaya Ploschad , facing the Neva River and surrounded by the Admiralty, St. Isaac's Cathedral and the buildings of the former Senate and Synod - the civil and religious governing bodies of pre-revolutionary Russia.

The monument was meant to be a tribute by Catherine the Great to her famous predecessor on the Russian throne. An inscription on the monument reads in Latin and Russian**:** Petro Primo Catarina Secunda - To Peter the First from Catherine the Second.

An equestrian statue of Peter the Great, created by the famous French sculptor Etienne Maurice Falconet, depicts the most prominent reformer of Russia as a Roman hero. The pedestal is made of a single piece of red granite the shape of a cliff. From the top of this "cliff Peter shows the way for Russia, while his horse steps on a snake, which represents the enemies of Peter and his reforms. Ironically, the «evil» snake serves as a third point o support for the statue. According to a 19th century legend, enemy forces will never take St. Petersburg while the "Bronze Horseman" stands in the middle of the city.

The day was exciting. I was very tired at the end but happy. Tomorrow we are going to go to Peterhof.

**Day 2, 20.06.09.**

**PETRODVORETS (PETERHOF**)

It took us about an hour to go there by bus.

Historical reference: Peter the Great built the ensemble known as Petrodvorets along the shore of the Gulf of Finland some 20 miles west of St. Petersburg, The Grand Palace sits atop a hill separating the entire ensemble in two parts - the Upper Garden and the Lower Park.

It was the summer residence of Peter the Great, built to commemorate victory over the Swedes in 1709 and to show the strength of the Russian Empire.

Peterhof was designed to resemble Versailles in France and architects from all over the world were involved in its design. Over 4,000 peasants dug the gardens, parks and canals, and Peter the Great himself helped plan the layout of the gardens and fountains. Vasily Tuvolkov, Russia's first hydraulics engineer, built the fountains in 1721 - 1722.

The Great Cascade fountain in the gardens has 17 waterfalls, 142 water jets, 66 fountains, 29 bas-reliefs and 39 gilded statues, including the famous five-ton Sampson Fountain. It is surrounded by eight dolphins and is wrestling the open jaws of a lion from which a jet of water shoots over 20 metres into the air. Another fountain, the Chess Hill, contains some of the best waterfalls cascading over bronze dragons. The Triton Fountain shows Neptune's son wrestling with a sea monster. The Pyramid fountain was designed by Peter the Great and is made up of seven tiers and 505 jets.

 Some of the fountains are there to surprise and amuse visitors. The Little Umbrella fountain sprays out water from 164 jets as soon as anyone sits on a bench under it. The Little Oak fountain sprays out water if it senses any weight approaching it and the Pebbles fountain also drenches visitors who sit on a nearby bench.

We spent a whole day happily and made our spirits high in a fairy land.

A comfortable boat took us to St. Petersburg. Here I made friends with Dr. Robert Solomon from Australia and had a little chance to speak English. 

**Day 3, 21.06.09.**

**PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS**

We walked there, because the fortress isn’t f ar from our cousin’s flat. For a short period of time we could sink into the 18th century.

Peter the Great decided to build a fort to protect the area from possible attacks by the Swedish army and navy. The fortress was founded on a small island in the Neva delta on May 27, 1703 (May 16 according to the old calendar) and that day became the birthday of the city of St. Petersburg. The Swedes were defeated before the fortress was even completed. From 1721 the fortress housed part of the city's garrison and served as a high security political jail. Among the first inmates was Peter's own rebellious son Alexei. Later, the list of famous residents included Dostoyevsky, Gorky and Trotsky. Other buildings in the fortress house the City History Museum and the Mint. The fortress on Zayachiy Island was the first building in Petersburg.

 Since 1706 stone bastions were erected, linked with straight walls 9-12 meters high, 16-20 meters wide. They were used as a room for a living, watching or shooting.

A fine view is opened. We have a chance to admire a beautiful Neva and city from here.

The main entrance to the fortress is Peter Gate in the eastern wall, enriched with sculpture hire and has relief showing the magician Simon down by St Peter. It was built by D. Trezzini in 1717-1718. There is Vasilievskiye Gate (1703) in the western wall, Kronverkskiye (1703) and Nikolskiye (1703) in the northern walls, Nevskiye, leading to the Neva pier. In the 18th-19th century, Commandant's House, Engineers Building, the Mint, the Grand-Ducal Mausoleum and other structures were built on the territory of the Fortress.

**PETER AND PAUL CATHEDRAL**

The chain of historical events at once brings to mind: Peter the Great, Catherine the Second…

Peter and Paul Cathedral inside the Peter and Paul fortress is a church where all the Russian Emperors and Empresses, from Peter the Great to Alexander III, are buried. It was built in 1712-1733 to the designs of D. Trezzini on the place where a wooden church had been erected since 1703. The design of the cathedral is most unusual for a Russian Orthodox church.

The new Cathedral was so beautiful that it was considered to be the best church of the new capital. In 1858 the new iron spire was built. Its length is 40.31 m. The Cathedral is the highest building in the city and one of the most prominent symbols of St. Petersburg.

**Day 4, 22.06.09.**

**CATHERINE PALACE IN PUSHKIN**

The skies are grey, by not a star lit…

The evening's shadows onward press

And softly lick the steps dark scarlet

Of Catherine's lofty palaces.

Then dark the gardens grow and dreamy,

The stars appear and turn a dome,

Outlined by them, into a gleam of

A golden past, its symbol lone…

*Translated by I. Sbeleznova*

My first thoughts when someone mentions Pushkin are Catherine the Second Alexnder Pushkin Tsarskoselsky Gardens and the Catherine Palace.

We arrived at Pushkin in the morning , but there was a lone queue before the palace. We were lucky to get tickets to the Palace and walk in its park and gardens.

 Here is my guide- book

Located some 12 miles away from St. Petersburg, the ensembleof the Catherine Palace and the Catherine Park are among Russia's top museums, visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists everyyear was designed by Bartholomeo Rastrelli for the Empress Elizabeth, daughter of Peter the Great. Nowadays, the Catherine Palace houses collections of paintings of Western European artists of 16th-19th centuries, furniture**,** weaponry and applied decorative arts.

The (Catherine) Palace, with its majestic and sumptuous 306-m long facade, main staircase and suite of halls, which abound with gilded woodwork, mirrors and amber, ranks among the masterpieces of Russian Baroque

Tsarskoye Selo flourished under Catherine II. It was during her reign that the Church and Zubov Wings of the Great Palace were built alongside the Cold Baths, with the Agate Rooms, the Hanging Garden and the Cameron Gallery, in the style of ancient Roman thermae (1780-87, architect Charles Cameron).

The architecture of the palaces blends harmoniously into the surrounding parks and gardens. The landscapes of the Alexander Park, with their romantic structures, such as the Chinese Village, the Arsenal and the White Tower, are no less picturesque.

Prior to the 1917 revolution, the Great Palace served as the summer residence of Russian emperors. In 1918 a museum of art and history opened here. During the Nazi occupation the palaces and monuments of Tsarskoye Selo suffered dramatic damage and since 1957 repairs and restoration work have been conducted.

In 1716, the King of Prussia presented The Amber Room to the Russian Tsar Peter the Great. The room was first installed in the Winter Palace, but in 1755 it was moved to the Catherine Palace in Tsarskoye Selo. It took 76 guardsmen 6 days to move the room! The room was walled with amber and other precious stones worth $142 million and lit by 565 candles. The candlelight reflected beautifully on the golden surface of the amber and sparkled in the mirrors, gilt and mosaics. More than 5 tons of amber was used to decorate the room.

Unfortunately, the amber and precious stones were lost at the beginning of World War II.

Recently the mosaic was recovered and given to the Russian President along with an intricately inlaid chest from the Amber Room that had been found. A replica Amber Room has now been constructed at the Catherine Palace.

**Day 5, 23.06.09.**

**Thematic city tour**

St. Petersburg offers the most varied routes year-round. They include broad-ranging and thematic tours.

We start with a sightseeing drive to the landmarks of the historical part of the city which are fantastic. I’m interested in history. I wish I saw the grave of Marshal Kutuzov who I admire much.

Some information about Kazan Cathedral.

**KAZAN CATHEDRAL**

Kazan Cathedral was built between 1801 and 1811 on orders of Paul I. It encircles a small square with a double row of beautiful columns - an impressive colonnade. The architect Andrei Voronikhin wanted the cathedral to be a Russian version of St. Peter's in Rome After the War of 1812 the church became a monument to the Russian victory. Between 1813 and 1815, trophies from the Patriotic War were displayed in the Cathedral. The famous Russian Field Marshal Mikhail Kutuzov, who won the most important campaign of 1812, was buried inside the church.

In 1837 monuments to Marshal Kutuzov and M. B. Barclay de Tolly were

built in front of the Kazan Cathedral.

The Cathedralwas named after a "miracle-making" iconof Our Lady of Kazan, which the church housed till the early 1930s.

**CRUISER "AURORA"**

This historical ship has been turned into a museum and is located just a few hundred yards up-stream from the House of Peter the Great, opposite the St**.**

PetersburgHotel. The cruiser, built in

St. Petersburg in 1897-1900, took an active part in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904 05. During the October Revolution of 1917 gave the signal (by firing a blank shot) to storm the Winter Palace.

During World War II and the 900-day Blockade of Leningrad, the guns of the ship were taken down and used on the front line of the city's defenses. After the war the ship was used as a free museum and training ship for cadets of the nearby Nakhimov Navy School.

A trip on board of a cozy boat reveals some hidden secrets of the city and doesn't leave us indifferent to its charm.

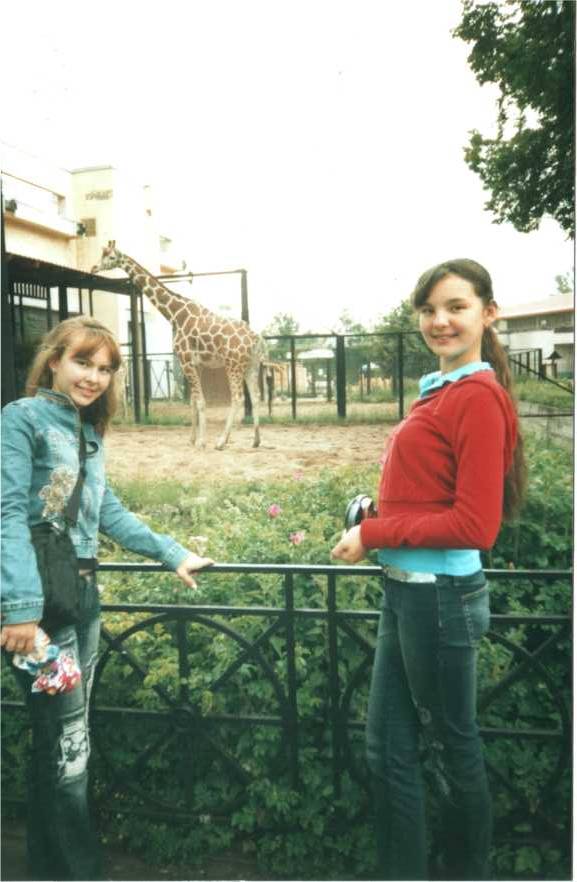


***According to a popular legend, St. Petersburg was built on  
a thousand islands. The waters of the Neva River have  
shaped the character of St, Petersburg and determined its  
significance as a port city, a center for shipbuilding, and  
a connecting link between vast continental Russia and  
the countries of Western Europe.***

**St. Petersburg: Bridges and Canals**

 Water has always been important for St. Pe­tersburg. The city has survived several major floods one of them is the subject of Alexander Pushkin's poem The Copper Horseman. And just like The Bronze Horseman monument, St. Petersburg bridges have become one of the city symbols. St. Petersburg boasts several hundreds bridges, more than 40 islands and few dozens of canals, which earned St. Petersburg's nick-name "The Venice of the North," although many travellers deny the similarity. In summer days the largest ' bridges are drawn open at night to allow ships to pass and lowered again in the morning.

**Day 6, 24.06.09.**

 It’s a pity! Tomorrow we are living Peter. It rains cats and dogs.

**LENINGRAD ZOO**

It is one of the oldest and finest zoos of our country. Think of a zoo and images of animals imprisoned in cages is what usually comes to mind. Fortunately, it doesn't refer to the Leningrad Zoo. Most wild animals enjoy living conditions which are as close to their natural habitats as possible. This zoo is a real animal kingdom. There are different species of birds, fish, reptiles, herbivores mammals and etc. For example, golden eagle, snowy owls, flamingos, geese, parrots, white and brown bears, foxes, camels, donkeys, zebras, leopards, lions, tigers, elephants, horses, reptiles, amphibians, kangaroos, koalas, bats, seals, wolfs, orangutans, giraffe (the tallest animal of the world).

As you know thousands of visitors come to the Zoo every week. Today I'm one of them. I'm happy to have visited the Leningrad Zoo.

**Day** 7**, 25.06.09.**

**SHOPPING**

Today in the evening we are going to leave St. Petersburg for Buraevo. In the morning I go to get some things from the supermarkets in the Nevsky Prospect. There are numerous other stores dot the Prospect, each with its own bit of tradition and history. Two of Russia largest stores are their. Passage one of them. On May 22, 1848 there, when the largest department store of St. Petersburg Passage had opened the doors for the citizens and visitors of the Russian capital. Created on a plan the count Yakov Ivanovich Essen-Stenbock Fermor in the centre of St. Petersburg, on the most brisk crossroads of city, "Passage" became a trade center, oriented on privileged levels of the society.

Now closed joint-stock company Passage is the largest centre a bouticue trade with already completed highly professional command, which values traditions and reputation of the firm.

By the way, I have bought some nice presents for my parents, relatives and friends in these stores.

In the evening we are in the train

"St. Petersburg-Izhevsk". But I'd like to go to St. Petersburg someday again.

Seven days were enough to visit the main sightseeings and fell the special atmosphere of St. Petersburg. On leaving one of the most beautiful cities of the world, I felt that I was abandoning another world or planet. I had a strong feeling that the place I've just left was a fairytale country. No doubt, it's next to impossible to get and observe it all, but it's hardly possible not to fall in love with it!

Inconclusion I'd like to say: to travel is to live.

After this trip a lot changed in my mind. Now I'm very sure that all wishes come true sooner or later. You must just wish it very much. Of course, I've got a lot of plans: I want to see St. Petersburg.

If you have a possibility, I strongly recommend you to visit this miraculous land. You won't be disappointed and will find a lot of words and feelings to supplement my project.

I LOVE PITER!



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