

Practical Information & Cultural Programme

Dear ISIR 2016 participants,

We are looking forward to welcoming you in St Petersburg and hope that you will enjoy the conference and have a fantastic time in this beautiful city. We know that some of you are staying a few extra days and will get a chance to explore some cultural heritage that St Petersburg has to offer. Others - are only coming for the days of the conference and will only have very limited time.

Below, we provide some practical information with several recommendations. Please also look at the Preliminary schedule at a glance document. The full programme will be available on-line soon.

Ekaterina Kolienko, our cultural programme manager in St Petersburg, is available to provide further advice and answer practical questions. Please contact her on:

skype: [eka.kolienko](#); WatsUp/mobile phone +79215793167; e-mail: ekalife@mail.ru.

Ekaterina will also be available on-site during the Summer school and the Conference to assist with further queries.

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

There are 2 cultural events that we organise for the ISIR participants (cost specified below, we are obtaining the lowest possible tickets). We will be very grateful if you could e-mail Ekaterina Kolienko as soon as possible if you would like to join us for these trips. We will book them for the number of participants who confirms with us. You can pay the fee on the first day of the conference.

1. A boat trip to Peterhof (Petrodvorets)

The Peterhof Palace is a series of palaces and gardens located in Peterhof, approximately 30 minutes fast boat ride from the centre of St Petersburg. Peterhof was laid out on the orders of Peter the Great on the Gulf of Finland. These palaces and gardens are sometimes referred as the "Russian Versailles".

This visit is planned for the afternoon of the 14th of July, leaving the hotel at 14.45. All participants of the Summer School and of the ISIR conference are welcome to join us. We will go as a group on a famous fast boat (meteor) and will spend time at the gardens of the palace (you can also buy a separate ticket (600RUB foreign/450RUB Russian citizens) if you would like to visit the palace).

The cost of the trip is:

	Foreigners	Russians	Students
Return boat ticket	1300	1300	1300
The Grand Palace	600	450	300
The Lower Park	700	450	250

2. A boat trip 'Under the opening bridges'

Time: 01:10-02:40, July 16

We will provide instructions to all participants who register for this trip. There will be some time between the Conference Banquet and the boat trip. Participants will be able to join us at the boat terminal or walk with the organised group from the conference hotel (leaving hotel at 00.30). The time of the trip is linked to bridges opening and therefore cannot be changed. We of course expect all participants to attend the morning session of Day 3, so please evaluate your energy accordingly!

Cost: 800 -1250 RUB, depending on the number of participants.

Conference Banquet

Conference banquet is included in the registration fee. We will ask you to confirm that you are attending the banquet when you collect your badges on the 1st day of the conference. We will give you banquet ticket and instructions on how to get to the restaurant. We will be going as a group from the conference hotel, meeting at the lobby at 19.00. Or you can come directly there. The restaurant is walking distance from the hotel (or a 6 minute taxi ride), and is located close to the Hermitage.

Accompanying persons (e.g., spouses, partners) are welcome to join us on these trips, but please notify us in advance. If partners are not registered for a conference, they will need to purchase a ticket for the banquet at registration desk (price: 2500RUB).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Arrival at the Airport

If you are arriving from abroad, you will go through passport control. You don't need to fill in any landing cards or forms in advance (unless you are bringing more than \$10000 in cash, in which case you need to fill in a customs declaration form). A small white form will be issued by the passport control officer for you and will be given to you together with your passport once the passport has been stamped. Please keep this piece of paper safe. You will need it for the entire journey and will have to give it back when you go through passport control when you leave. When you check in at your hotel, they will ask for this form as they will stamp (register) it and will give it back to you. **Your visas cover participation in tourist, cultural, scientific and entertainment events.**

The airport is easy to navigate. The easiest way to get to the hotel (center of St Petersburg) is by taxi.

We can order a city taxi for you and arrange for the driver to pick you up in the arrivals hall with your name sign. If you would like to use this service, please inform Ekaterina as soon as you can. The cost will be approximately 1000RUB (\$15), which is cheaper than taking a taxi at the airport. When arranging with Ekaterina, please specify if you want to book a business-class car at an extra cost.

If you prefer to take a taxi on arrival, please follow the following instructions:

Just as you leave the airport building, you will see an official taxi kiosk. You should show the address to the person in the kiosk and pay by cash or card to that person. They will give you a receipt (one for you and one for the taxi driver) and will direct you to the pick up point, usually just across the road. The number of the car will be on your receipt. Do not take a taxi from individuals offering taxis, they are likely to overcharge. The journey should cost around \$20 and should take about 30 - 40 minutes, provided no major traffic jams.

There are cash machines at the airport where you can get cash. There are plenty of cash machines everywhere in the centre too. You can also connect to free internet at the airport. This will probably ask you to log-in by entering your phone number. You will get a phone call to your number, do not answer, but note the last four digits of the number and enter them as log-in.

Current Approximate Exchange rate: 1 USD = 65 RUB; 1000RUB = \$15

Public Transport

Single Ticket (tram, trolley bus, bus)	30 RUB
Metro (token)	35 RUB
Combined (tram, trolley bus, bus) for 10 trips	290 RUB
10 trips for metro (valid for 7 days)	330 RUB

On the metro, you use a token or a travel card once, on entering. The same price covers the entire journey to any station. On buses, trams and trolleybuses, you will need to touch your travel card on the machine readers or you can purchase a single ticket from a conductor.

Travel card (all transport):

You can purchase (on the underground) a plastic travel card and put money on it. This will be valid on all types of transport.

Places of Interest

Metro/Underground stations

Although you might not need to travel on public transport, the underground in St Petersburg is well worth a visit. Many stations, especially in the centre, are considered to be architectural monuments. We recommend buying a token and taking a ride, coming out on several of the stations.

River and Canal Boats

We highly recommend river and canal boat tours. You can get the tickets for these on most embankments. These vary from small to large boats, with routes of various length. We recommend taking a boat during the day and then taking another route at night. In particular, the tour under the opening bridges at night is highly recommended.

Museums

St Petersburg is full of museums, below are several recommendations, but many more places of interest are available. Please note that most museum have 1 day off during the week.

St Isaak's Cathedral, St Isaac's Square, 4; Open: 10:30-18:00; Closed – Wednesday

250RUB

Entry to Collonade (at the top of the cathedral) - panoramic view of the city; Open: 10:30 to 18:00

150 RUB

Evening Collonade - Open 18:00 to 22:30

During the White Nights (including the conference dates) - Open 22:30 - 4:30; Closed -Wednesday

Church on Spilled blood, Griboedov Canal embankment, 2B

Open 10:30 - 18:00; Closed - Wednesday

Famous for beautiful mosaics

250 RUB

Evening programmes

18:00 - 22:30

Closed - Wednesday

Yusupov Palace, Moika river, 94; Open 11:00 - 17.00 (ticket office open: 10.45 – 17.00)

The Moika Palace or Yusupov Palace was once the primary residence in St. Petersburg, Russia of the House of Yusupov. The building was the site of Grigori Rasputin's murder in the early morning of December 17, 1916.

700 RUB (including audio guide in English (or other languages).

Alexander Nevsky Lavra, Monastirka river embankment, 1; Open 6:00-20:00

(active monastery)

Free entry

State Hermitage Museum, Palace Square, 2; Open 10:30-18:00 (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday) 10:30-21:00 (Wednesday, Friday) Closed - Monday

***We highly advise to book a ticket on-line. This will allow you to beat the queues.*

600 RUB - entry to the museum and other places of interest (Winter palace of Peter the Great, etc.)

580 RUB – electronic ticket.

St Nicholas Cathedral (Nikolskysobor), Nikolskaya square, 1/3; Open 9–19

Active cathedral

Free.

Russian Museum, Griboedov Canal Embankment, 2.

Open 10-18 (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday), 13-21 (Thursday) Closed - Tuesday

Entry to the permanent museum collection and current exhibitions

450 RUB (foreign citizens)

300 RUB (Russian Federation citizens)

Peter and Paul Fortress, <http://www.spbmuseum.ru/themuseum/visitors/cost.php>

Open 9:00 - 21:00

The Peter and Paul Fortress is the original citadel of St. Petersburg, Russia, founded by Peter the Great in 1703 and built to Domenico Trezzini's designs from 1706-1740.

Free (but tickets required for entry to certain parts).

Kazan Cathedral, Kazan Square, 2

Kazan Cathedral or Kazanskiy Kafedralniy Sobor, also known as the Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan, is a cathedral of the Russian Orthodox Church on the Nevsky Prospekt in Saint Petersburg.

Free.

Theatres (opera, ballet, concerts)

The tickets are selling out very fast. We strongly advise booking the tickets on-one or with Ekaterina's help as soon as possible. Please contact Ekaterina Kolienco if you need further advice.

Mikhailovsky Theatre	Ballet « <i>Don Quixote</i> »	July 12,13,14,15, 800-7000 RUB
	Балет «Giselle»	July 18 1000-5000 RUB
Mariinsky Theatre	Rigoletto 3 act Opera	Mariinsky-2 11 July 19.00 1200 - 4000 RUB
	Symphony Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre	Concert Hall July 11 19.00 400 - 2000 RUB
	Marriage of Figaro 4 act opera-buffa	Mariinsky Theatre July 12 19.00 800 - 4000 RUB
	Armenian national philharmonic orchestra	Concert Hall July 12 19:00 1000 - 2000 RUB
	The legend of the invisible city of Kitezh 4-act Opera	Mariinsky-2 July 13 18:00 1000 - 3400 RUB
	Faust 5 act opera	Mariinsky Theatre July 14 19:00 800 - 4000 RUB
	Sleeping Beauty 3 act ballet	Mariinsky-2 July 14 & 15 19:00 от 2000 до 6000 руб.
	A Midsummer Night's Dream 3 act opera	Concert Hall July 14 & 15 19:00 1200 -2500 RUB
	The Force of Destiny опера в 4-х действиях	Mariinsky Theatre July 15 19:00 800 - 4000 RUB
	Troubadour 4 act opera	Mariinsky-2 July 16 19:00 1200 - 4000
	Ula Rokkones (saxophone) and Symphony orchestra of the Mariinsky theatre	Concert Hall July 16

		19:00 1000 - 2000 RUB
	Margarita and Arman. In the night Evening of ballet	Mariinsky Theatre July 16 19:30 1000 - 5000
	Simon Boccanegra 3 act opera Conductor - Valery Gergiev	Mariinsky-2 July 17 13:00 1000 - 3400 RUB
	Eugene Onegin 3 act opera	Mariinsky theatre July 17 19:00 1300 - 4000 RUB
	The Love for Three Oranges 4 act opera (semi-stage performance)	Concert Hall July 17 19:00 1000 - 2000 RUB
	Premier 125-anniversary of Prokofiev PRODIGAL SON Violin concerto № 2 Prokofiev's music ballets	Mariinsky -2 July 17 июля 20:00 1600 - 5000 RUB
	Harp and Orchestra Солистка – <u>Софья Кипрская</u> (арфа)	Concert Hall July 18 20:00 800 - 1500 RUB
The St Petersburg Academic Philharmonia DD Shostakovich	Concerts not advertised yet, check website	
Yusupov Palace Theatre	Gala evening with ballet numbers	1200-2000 RUB July 17 19:00

Useful websites

<http://www.spbopera.ru/afisha/2016-07>

<http://www.yacobsonballet.ru/>

Restaurants and cafes located near the hotel:

- **Bogemius** +7 (812) 320-15-06 bogemius.ru V.o. Birzhevoi Pereulok, 1/10

The average bill: 1000–1200 RUB Cuisine: Russian, Czech, Mediterranean

- **Sevilla** Open till 22:30. +7 (812) 335-22-00 www.sokshotels.fi V.o. Birzhevoi Pereulok, 2-4

The average bill: 1800 RUB Cuisine: Spanish, Russian

- **Restaurant of the brewery Munhell** open until 01:00 +7 (812) 323-76-60
www.munhell.ru 7th line of Vasilevsky Island (VO), 44

The average bill: 1000 RUB Cuisine: European

- **Restaurant, bar Brugger** open until 02:00 +7 (812) 600-23-90 inbrugge.ru Makarova Embankment, 22

The average bill: 1500 RUB Cuisine: European

- **Spices & joy** open until 01:00 +7 (921) 436-91-57 www.ginza.ru 6th line of VO, 13

The average bill: 1300 RUB Cuisine: Georgian, European, Caucasian, Russian, Uzbek, Eastern, Meat, Mediterranean

- **Dve Palochki** open until 06:00 8 (800) 220-20-20 www.dvepalochki.ru Srednii prospekt.,16/39

The average bill: 500–1000 RUB Cuisine: European, American, Italian, Pan-Asian, Japanese, meat

- **Dans Le Noir** open until 23:00 +7 (812) 335-22-12 st-petersburg.danslenoir.com Birzhevoipereulok, 2-4

The average bill: 1800 RUB Cuisine: fusion

- **Marketplace** open until 23:00 +7 (981) 784-98-14 market-place.me 7th line VO, 34/2

The average bill: 350 RUB Cuisine: European, Asian

- **Tan Zhen** open until 23:00 +7 (812) 325-61-09 www.tang-ren.ru Bolshoi prospekt, VO, 19

The average bill: 400–500 RUB Cuisine: Chinese

- **Mamma Roma** open until 01:00 +7 (812) 328-06-39 www.mamaroma.ru Srednii prospekt VO, 6

The average bill: 900 RUB Cuisine: Italian Special menu: fitness

- **FatFraer** open until 01:00 +7 (812) 327-71-62 www.tolstiy-fraer.ru 8th line VO, 43, литераА

The average bill: 600 RUB Cuisine: European

- **KFC** open until 01:00 +7 (812) 600-51-82 www.kfc.ru Srednii prospekt VO, 36/40

The average bill: 300–500 RUB Cuisine: American

Hotel Information

SOLO SOKOS HOTEL PALACE BRIDGE
V.o. Birzhevoi Pereulok 2–4+7 812 335 2200

CHECK IN NOT EARLIER THAN 14:00, CHECK OUT NO LATER THAN 12:00

BREAKFAST Mon-Fri from 7.00 to 10.30 am, Sat-Sun 7:30 to 11:00, the restaurant Sevilla

Note that 1 coffee break with snacks and lunch each day are included in the registration fee.