

Санкт-Петербург



1703: **Sankt PiterBoerch** (after Dutch Sint-Pietersburg ?)

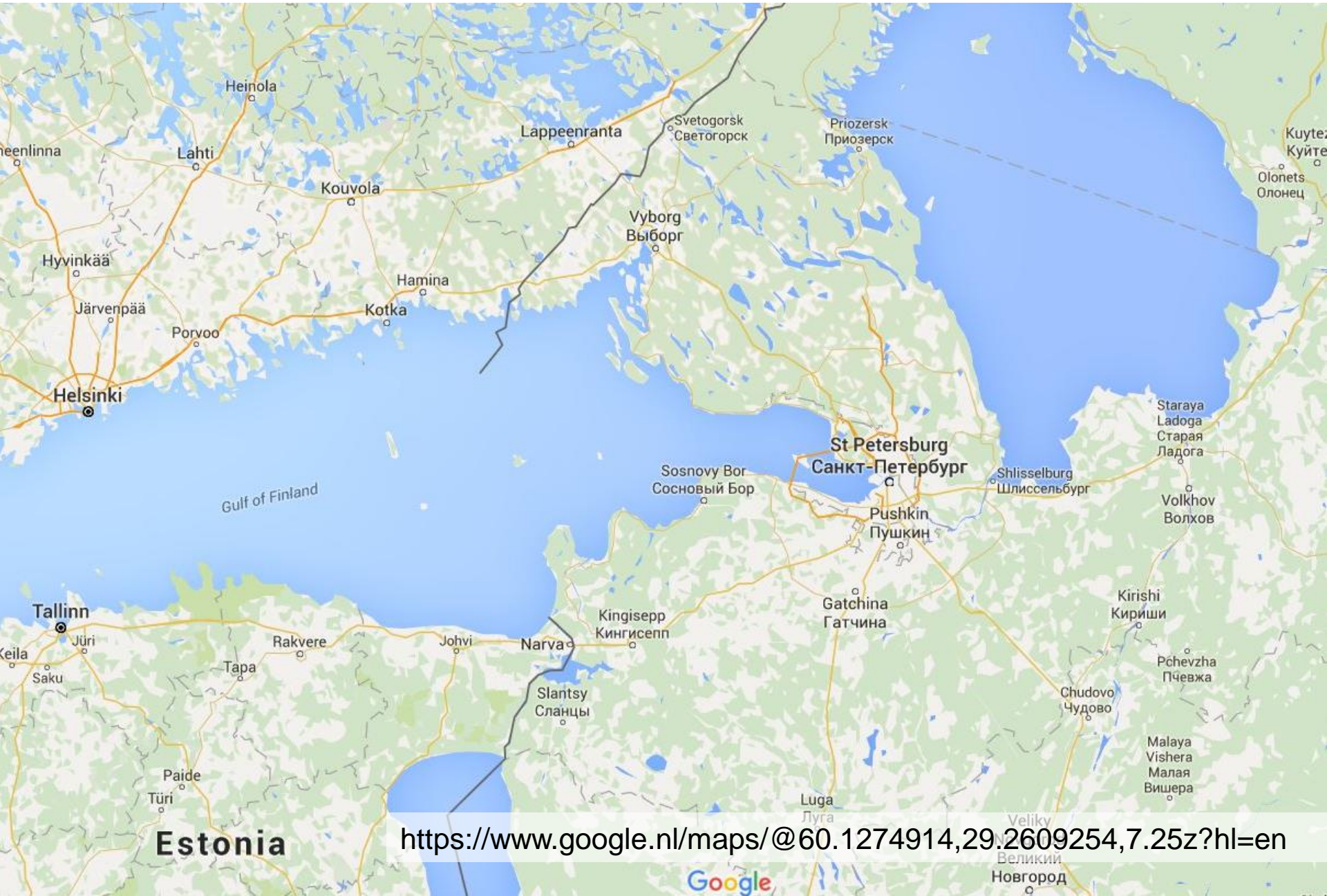
1914: **Petrograd** (grad = burg)

1924: **Leningrad** (Lenin ↔ Piter)

1991: **Saint Petersburg** ("СПб" -- SPb)

1712-1918: capital of Russian Empire

Established in 1703



Estonia

<https://www.google.nl/maps/@60.1274914,29.2609254,7.25z?hl=en>



Established in 1703 as Fortress



**Petropavlovskya fortress,
after Saint Apostles Peter and Paul**

Established in 1703 as Fortress



**Petropavlovskya fortress,
after Saint Apostles Peter and Paul**

**Portrait of Peter I
Godfrey Kneller, 1698**



Modern Санкт-Петербург

- the most Westernized large city of Russia
- population > 5 mln
- 2nd largest city in Russia
- the northernmost city with >1 mln population

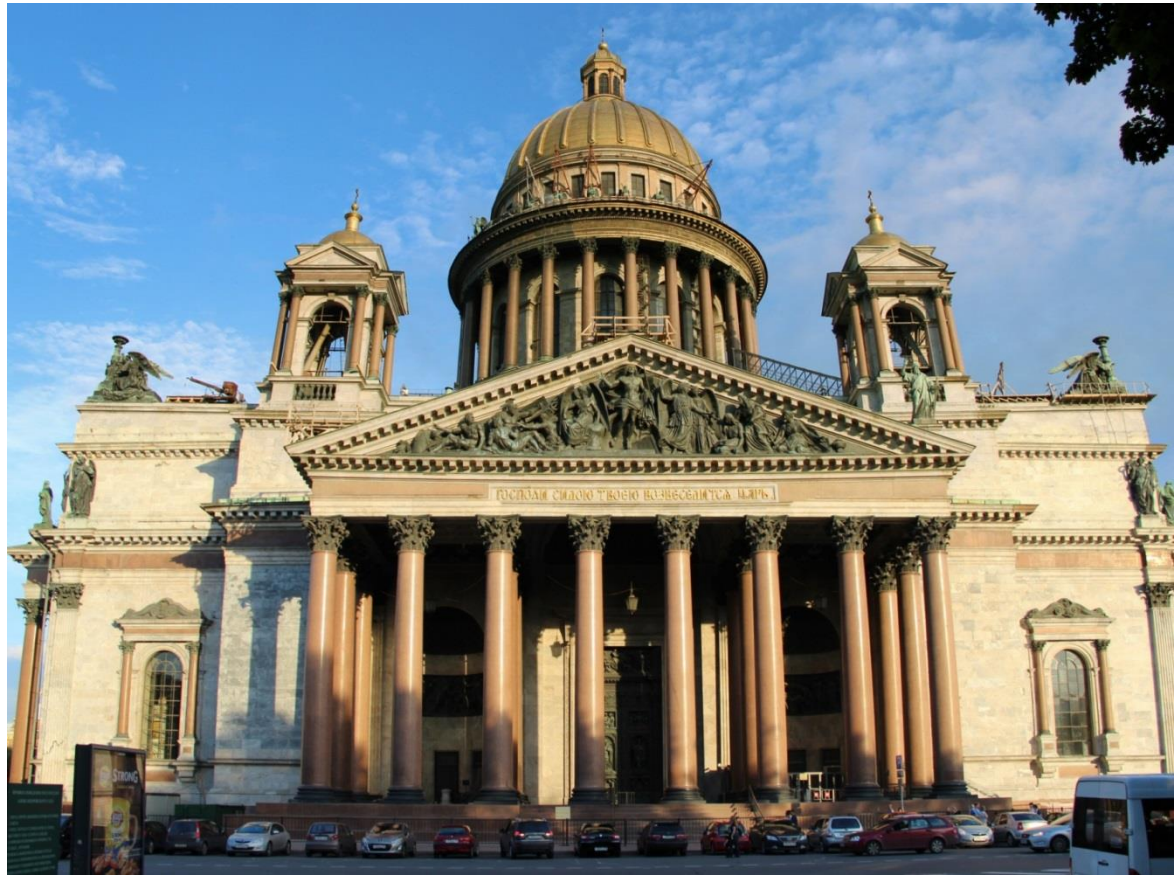
Climate (end of April)

- daytime +10C (+25C)
- night +5C (-20C)
- Rain: 35 mm
- ½ days rainy
- can be windy

Currency: ruble

Exchange rate:

1 Euro = 83 RUB



Saint Petersburg /S a Big City

My Rule of a Big City:

Any trip from point A to point B takes at least 1 hour

Public transportation in SPb is OK

Taxi: Uber or Yandex

Mind lifted bridges at night (1-4 am)

Language: Latin spellings in the central city and metro

However: people *en masse* do not speak foreign languages

Hence: basics of Cyrillic & Russian do help

Navigator in your mobile is useful

However: mind roaming rates!

In short: planning ahead is useful!

Big Group in a Big City

My Rule of a Big Group in a Big City:

Any trip time doubles

- Split into smaller (4-5 people) groups
- Discuss the route
- Travel independently if necessary
- Set meeting points and times
- Seven people do not wait for one; don't be the one!
- One day cash (but no more) is handy
- Have passport with you; keep it in a safe place
- Memorize the hotel name&address and my phone number
- Communicate! (set up WhatsApp or/and Twitter groups)

Stay Safe! Big City Rules

SPb is safe especially in the central (tourist) part
Suburbs might be questionable though

Nevertheless:

- Pickpockets: mind your belongings (money and docs)
- Traffic is hilarious: ped x-ing doesn't matter
- Avoid street games and pitfalls ("hey, here is your wallet")
- No alcohol on streets
- No rides by strangers, taxi only
- No drugs under no circumstances
- No vodka with strangers (esp. pretty girls)
- Don't be surprised by some rudeness
- Avoid tap water; boil it
- Avoid street food

Some National Features

Russians are like you – perhaps they watch too much TV

- Sensitivity to (recent) history & politics, esp WWII
- Especially in SPb: the Siege of Leningrad, 3.5 mln casualties
- Highly opinionated (black and white)
- Low-trust culture
- Inadequate responses
- Propaganda of gay rights is illegal

Useful to know:

- The Netherlands are called Holland (“Gollandia”)
- Gollandia is populated by gays and junkies

Before You Depart: Checklist

- check your passport AND the Russian visa
- make a copy of your passport
- check you bank pass for Russia
- check your roaming rates for Russia
- if you take prescription drugs, make sure you have a written prescription in English (at least)
- check your baggage for no drugs
- install useful apps: Yandex.Taxi, Yandex.Maps, Uber, Maps.me, Translate
- join the internet group(s) (do care to set them up)
- be sure that the addresses/names are noted on paper or imprinted into your brain



Enjoy Санкт-Петербург!