

ST. PETERSBURG GUIDE FOR GULF VISITORS

A friendly, practical companion for families and friends traveling with Almas Russia

Welcome to Almas Russia

Almas Russia is a boutique travel agency in Saint Petersburg. We craft private journeys across Northwestern Russia for Gulf families and small groups of friends — with halal dining, Arabic-speaking hosts, calm pacing, and careful attention to detail. This short guide helps you feel at home before you arrive.

Halal Dining

St. Petersburg has a growing selection of halal-certified and halal-friendly restaurants. Your host can book tables and confirm menus in advance, including:

- **Baku** — Azerbaijani cuisine with halal certification
- **Caravan** — Uzbek classics on Nevsky Prospekt
- **Khan's Tent** — Middle Eastern dishes, family-friendly
- **Hotel breakfasts** — halal options agreed before arrival

Prayer Facilities

We schedule prayer times into every itinerary. The Saint Petersburg Cathedral Mosque on Kronverksky Prospekt is one of the largest in Europe. Hotels and our hosts also help with:

- Prayer mats and Qibla direction in hotel rooms on request
- Nearby mosques and quiet prayer spots mapped into your day
- Daily prayer windows built into the private schedule
- Women-only hosting available when requested

Shopping & Souvenirs

Enjoy a relaxed stroll rather than a luxury chase. Popular, easy options include:

- **Nevsky Prospekt** — main avenue for boutiques and cafés
- **DLT / Galleria** — international brands under one roof
- **Local gifts** — amber, lacquer boxes, honey, Tatar sweets
- **VAT refund** — tax-free shopping for eligible visitors

Cultural Etiquette

Small courtesies make the trip smoother for everyone:

- **Churches** — cover shoulders; women may need a headscarf; men remove hats
- **Modesty** — everyday city dress is European; modest clothing is always welcome
- **Tipping** — about 10% in restaurants is customary
- **Photography** — often restricted inside churches and some museums

Museums & Highlights — Without the Crowds

Private groups mean skip-the-line tickets and a calm pace — never mixed with large tours:

- **Hermitage** — private guided visit with timed entry
- **Peterhof** — palace and gardens; boat option in summer
- **Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood** — priority tickets
- **St. Isaac's Cathedral** — private guided visit
- **Neva river cruise** — private boat for your group

Where to Stay

We choose comfortable, central hotels we have checked for families — halal breakfasts, prayer support, and quiet rooms when possible:

- **Domina Prestige** — central, family-friendly rooms
- **Hotel Moika 22** — riverside location, calm atmosphere
- **W St. Petersburg** — modern rooms near Nevsky
- Other boutiques on request — matched to your group size and budget

Talk to Your Host

No payment needed to start — share dates and who is traveling. We reply with a private program within 24–48 hours.

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