



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1. Registration and visa

To register for the UBC Commission on Environment meeting, MATRUSCHKA final Conference and X International Environmental Forum "Baltic Sea Day" and to reserve accommodation, please register using the online form at the http://www.ubc-environment.net/index.php/main:ubc_envcom_2009_03. Please, remember to register by 13 February at the latest.

If you need a visa to enter Russia, please, provide the necessary details in registration and also remember to send a copy of your passport to stella.aaltonen@turku.fi. We will organize a visa invitation for you. Be aware that it takes approximately two weeks to arrange a visa and normally a passport needs to be valid for more than three months after the visa dates.

The Commission on Environment will cover the costs of all the meals during the meeting on the 17th of March. We are also able to partly support the accommodation costs of the participants. For receiving this possible subsidy, please, contact Stella Aaltonen stella.aaltonen@turku.fi

2. Accommodation and Venue

When you have registered through the link under registration, we will confirm the accommodation to you automatically according to your wishes.

Park Inn Pulkovskaja
Pobedy Square 1
196240 St. Petersburg
Russian Federation
Tel: +7(812) 740 3900
Fax: +7(812) 740 3913
E-mail: reservations.ledpd@rezidorparkinn.com
Website: <http://www.pulkovskaya.ru>

Park Inn Pulkovskaja is located on Moskovsky Avenue just 5 kilometres from the Pulkovo International Airport, and 11 kilometers from the heart of the city. It's close to Moskovakaja metro station and bus stop.

For map of metro: <http://www.saint-petersburg.com/transport/metro/map.asp>

3. St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg (Санкт-Петербург) is the second largest city in Russia with approximately 5 million inhabitants. It's located on the Neva River at the head of Gulf of Finland on the Baltic Sea. Founded by Tsar Peter I of Russia in 1703, Saint Petersburg was the capital of the Russian Empire for more than two hundred years (1713–1728, 1732–1918). Nowadays the historic city centre is on the UNESCO's World's Heritage List. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the city has been rapidly making up for lost time and is by far the most cosmopolitan of Russia's cities. Saint Petersburg is a major European cultural centre, and an important Russian port on the Baltic Sea. It's also the most Northern city in the world that has a population over 1 million.

Currency: 1 euro is about 42 Russian roubles
Time zone: GMT+3

Remember to check the visa requirements!

3. Getting to St Petersburg

BY AIR

Pulkovo Airports (1 and 2) serve a wide variety of destinations. Both airports are to the South of the city, and connected to Moskovskaya Metro Station - and to the hotel (!) - by bus and "marshrutka" services. If you arrive to St. Petersburg by plain, the easiest way to reach the hotel is by bus or marshrutka. A bus 39 and marshrutka K-39 run from Pulkovo-1, it takes around 25 minutes and 13 and K-13 run from Pulkovo-2, taking a little less time. All services run roughly from 06.30 to 23.30, and cost less than 1€.

If your flight arrives outside those hours, or if you have a lot of luggage, you'll probably want to take a taxi. The price is good to be negotiated in advance. Traffic is usually quite heavy in the city, so plan a loose schedule.

BY TRAIN

Saint Petersburg is a major rail hub. The 5-hour train ride from Helsinki (Finland) is one of the most comfortable ways to reach the city. For further information: <http://www.vr.fi/heo/eng/ita/ita.htm> Trains also connect to destinations in the Baltics and Central Europe. There are 5 stations in St. Petersburg, all of them located in the center, near the metro stations, and are easy to access.

BY SEA

If you're coming from Finland or Estonia on a Tallink or Silja ferry, then you'll be dropped at the Morsky Vokzal (Sea Terminal) on Vasilevskiy Island. From here you can either take a taxi to the center - don't pay more than 10 € - or you can take a K-128 marshrutka to Vasileostrovskaya metro station, which is only one stop from the center of town.

BY BUS

The cheapest, although by no means the most comfortable way of reaching Saint Petersburg from neighbouring countries are long distance buses. Most of the buses from Belarus, Ukraine, Germany, Finland, the Baltic states and Scandinavia stop at the main bus station, Avtovokzal which is 15 min walk away from the closest metro station, Ligovskii Prospekt.

Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions concerning the practicalities of this meeting.

Hope to see you all soon in St Petersburg!

Björn Grönholm and Stella Aaltonen

UBC Environment and Sustainable Development Secretariat