

# Legends of Saint Petersburg

**Every city has some unusual magical places and Saint Petersburg is not an exception.**

**The city was founded more than three hundred years ago and has collected a huge number of mysterious legends about different places and buildings.**

# Sphinxes at the Universitetskaya Embankment

Sphinxes at the Universitetskaya Embankment are located in front of the Imperial Academy of Arts. It is one of the most mysterious places in Saint Petersburg. Sphinxes were brought from Alexandria, Egypt in 1832. They are 3500 years old and were created for the temple of the Luxor. Their faces are portraits of Amenhotep III



# Legends, connected with the Sphinxes

There are several myths about St Petersburg sphinxes

According to one of them, the expression of their faces changes during the day. Since morning till noon it is calm and peaceful, and then it turns into threatening and even creepy.

- the person who disturb the rest of the Sphinxes will be inevitably dead. They say that Sphinxes should not have been taken from their motherland
- the curse expects the city where they were brought to.

But there are some good legends connected with Sphinxes too:

- If you caress the Sphinx, it will become your patron and will guard you
- Many people say, if the Sphinx like you, your wishes will come true.



**By the way, there is also a legend connected with the Academy of arts, which is situated just next to the Sphinxes. They say, that the ghost of one of its architects, Alexander Kokorinov, is still wandering in its hall, As the legend says he hung himself in its attic.**



# Saint Michael's Castle/ *Mikhailovsky* *zamok*

There is no  
need to say,  
that this castle  
is the most  
famous and  
creepiest ghost  
place in Saint  
Petersburg



**It was built as a residence for Russian Emperor Paul I who was afraid of intrigues and assassination plots and disliked the Winter Palace, where all other monarchs used to live. He was keen on stories about medieval knights, that's why he ordered to build a new residence so alike the real castle with artificial canals around it.**

**Paul I was assassinated there only 40 nights after he moved into his newly built castle.**

**They say, that his shadow still can be seen in this castle. Employees of the museum say that they sometimes hear his steps, doors slams without any wind. Every time it happens, people, who work in the museum, always cheer the dead emperor**





# **Places to make a wish**

**There are several attractions in our city,  
where you can make a wish. Usually they are  
connected with some bronze monuments**

The monument to Peter I (St. Michael's Castle) The model of this sculpture was designed by the Italian sculptor [Carlo Bartolomeo Rastrelli](#) when Peter I was still alive. But it was made in bronze only in 1747 and in 1800 was put in front of St. Michael's Castle by the order of Paul I.

There is a relief on its base, which shows a sailor, saved by Peter the Great. There is a legend among seamen that if you don't want to drown, you should touch the sailor's foot. Nowadays students touch it not to fail the exams.



# Bank Bridge Griffins

If you want to have  
no problems with  
money, you should  
rub griffin's paw.  
You will inevitably  
make a fortune.



There are some more griffins in St Petersburg and two of them are just in front of the Sphinxes. But the ritual is more difficult. To make a wish, you should look in Sphinx's eyes and at the same moment you must rub griffin's head with you one hand and hold griffins tooth with your other hand

