

## USEFUL INFORMATION IF GOING TO RUSSIA AS A TOURIST IN A PLEASURE CRAFT.



Topic	Comment
Demographic data (population/no of clubs/members/boats)	142 million inhabitants; Baltic part: 20 clubs with 2,000 members Number of pleasure boats in the Baltic Sea Russia – approx. 20,000 148 harbours including 20 marinas. 20 marinas in St Petersburg area. Between Vyborg and St. Petersburg 7 harbours are available for foreign boats. 3 harbours in the Kaliningrad area.
Currency with link for exchange rates	Russian Rouble. 1 Euro is about 69.43 Roubles (14 Dec 2017). <a href="http://www.rbc.ru/">http://www.rbc.ru/</a> <a href="https://www.yandex.ru/">https://www.yandex.ru/</a>
Formalities, Customs, passport control, visa	To apply for a tourist visa one needs to get a Voucher and a Confirmation from an authorised agency. Passport and Customs control may take a while unless one uses an agent/local representative. <b>Customs Posts - Fort Konstantin, Kronshtadt (59°59'.38N; 29°42'.31E). Vyborg (60° 42'.86N 28°43'.74E).</b> If assistance with the above formalities needed, feel free to contact Vladimir Ivankiv at <a href="mailto:vladimir@sailrussia.spb.ru">vladimir@sailrussia.spb.ru</a> Foreign visitors are recommended to inform Russian coast guard about the time and place of crossing the border via an agent/representative. Customs working hours - 09:00 to 21:00. One is expected to get a visa registered if one stays longer than one week.
Banned substances	<a href="https://www.erowid.org/psychoactives/law/countries/russia/law_russia_schedules.shtml">https://www.erowid.org/psychoactives/law/countries/russia/law_russia_schedules.shtml</a> To avoid possible complications during the customs procedure visitors are recommended to keep all their medicine in one kit, better with prescriptions and present it to the customs officer.
Boat's documents required	Customs Clearance requires the following: -Copy of a Crew List, 4 copies; -Copy of Skipper`s Passport, 3 copies; -Copy of Skipper`s Visa, 3 copies; -Certificate of Registry (alternatively – any legal paper that proves ownership – original document); -Copy of Certificate of Registry, 3 copies; -General Declaration (you get the form to fill in on arrival)
Insurance	Not required unless participating in local races
Legislation certificate of competence	Certificate of competence is required for all local pleasure boats. Visiting boats should comply with legislation in their own country.
Alcohol limits – on the water and on the road	0.16/ml on the road as well as on the water.
Legislation re life jackets	The number of life jackets is required to correspond to the number of people on board.
TSS, esp. new ones	TSS exist in the shipping lanes from south of Gogland for the approaches to Viborg and St. Petersburg.
Military exercise areas	<b>The ranges in the eastern Gulf of Finland.</b> No 3 (previously No 76) between Seskar Island and NE of Moschnyi Island No 114 NE of Gogland to the port side of the shipping lane close to the island Nos 105 and 107 Opposite Primorsk and south of Vyborg in the Bjoerk (Bjorke) Strait. <b>Prohibited Areas</b> No. 78 Between Gogland and Moshchnyi No. 75 area including O Seskar. All the areas are on the charts. Notifications are made on Navtex, VHF and Notice to Mariners There is a large military exercise area designated Area 117 off the coast of Kaliningrad. Mariners should check with the authorities to ascertain whether or not it is operational.
Major construction sites	The new bridge over the Gulf of Finland in the surroundings of both River and Krestovsky YCs has been built. Clearance - 25 metres.

Windfarms/wave and tidal energy projects	There are neither wind farms nor wave/tidal energy projects in Russia
Bridges	There are 342 bridges in the historical part of St.Petersburg of which 21 are opening bridges. They open at night to let the river traffic go first up the River and then the other way round.
Fishing equipment	When in Russian territorial waters one is recommended to strictly follow the buoyed channels to avoid getting trapped with the illegal fishing nets. Even the legal fishing companies who put their nets in the areas indicated on charts in practice do not care much about marking standards.
Habitats and other protected areas	Pleasure boats are not allowed to visit any of the islands of the Eastern Part of the Gulf of Finland except for Kotlin Island.
Flag traditions/ application of flag rules	Flag etiquette is known but in practice not strictly followed. Guests are expected to fly a courtesy flag under starboard spreader
Weather forecast	Russian yachtsmen normally use foreign weather sites such as <a href="http://www.windfinder.com">www.windfinder.com</a> or <a href="http://windguru.cz">windguru.cz</a>
Harbours including approx number of natural harbours	The following harbours in Russia are open to foreign pleasure boats in the Baltic Sea: Lavola YC, Favorit YC (two locations Vyborg), Johannes YC, Primorsk Yacht Pier, Bukhta Dubkovaya YC, Terijoki YC -St.Petersburg any accessible yacht club but River YC and Krestovskiy YC are the main ones and accessible to masthead craft. -Kaliningrad: Kaliningrad YC, Fishing Port. (Pionerskiy is currently closed – 2016). There are no natural harbours in the Gulf of Finland which foreign pleasure boats are allowed to visit.
Mooring booking facilities	None
Swinging mooring buoys for pleasure yachts	No swinging buoys
Anchoring and free access ashore	Anchoring is not allowed unless you are caught with real rough weather. Contact Russian coast guard on Ch.16 and ask for a refuge.
Good harbour manners	A quiet environment is expected after 2300
Safety in harbours	Yacht harbours are very secure. 24 hours guarding services provided
Rescue services	VHF Ch.16 working channels 71, 72, call sign "St.Petersburg Rescue Coordination Centre" Tel. +7 812 3274147, +7 812 4958995, +7 812 7188995
Pyrotechnics - legislation re carrying - if flareguns (Very pistols) permitted - if so is licence required? - procedure for disposal	No regulations. Visiting boats should comply with legislation in their own country. No formal procedure.
Staying during the winter	Winter storage is possible. According with the recent changes in the Russian Customs Regulations the period of temporary Importation is extended to one year from the Entry Date.
Antifouling regulations	No regulations
Fuel availability	Fuel Stations available at major yacht harbours.
Gas and electricity systems available – necessity for adapters	Propane Gas available but the gas station is too far away from the sea coast. It is strongly recommended to bring an extra bottle. 220-240 European system - two pin sockets. Visiting yachts need to have plugs suitable to connect to Russian sockets. Adapters would not be provided. 220-240V - IEC 83 380V - IEC 60309-1

Repair and maintenance facilities	There are repair and maintenance services available at the River YC (yachts moored at Krestovski YC can use the services of the RYC) : -Sail loft; -Diesel Mechanic; -Carpentry; -GRP repair; -Crane 12,5 T; Most yacht engine and electronics dealers are available in St.Petersburg.
Pump out stations for sewage and oily water	Pumping sewage services are not available in local yacht harbours
Public transport	St.Petersburg: Metro (0.5 Euros), Tram, Trolleybus, Bus (0.4 to 0.6 Euro within the city, up to 0.9 Euros to get to the suburb (October 2016); Vyborg: Buses. Price – around 0.4 Euro; Kaliningrad: tram, bus, trolleybus. Price – 0.3 Euro.
Major source of charts/pilot books in the country with link	Cartographic Technology Centre <a href="http://www.cktspb.ru">www.cktspb.ru</a>
Shopping hours	Supermarkets work 7 days a week, quite a few open for 24 hrs.
Important phone numbers, home pages and useful links	St.P. Sailing Union, Foreign Committee: +7 9219325831 <a href="http://www.sailingunion.ru">www.sailingunion.ru</a>
Tick borne diseases	In Baltic Russia ticks are especially active from April to mid June. In 2015 the number of tick bites increased by more than 30%. The most known tick borne diseases in Russia are Lyme and Encephalitis.
Legislation re visiting with pets aboard	People travelling with dogs or cats when clearing customs must present either an international animal passport issued by the official state veterinary organization or an international veterinary certificate. Pets must be ID-marked and vaccinated against rabies longer than 30 days but shorter than 12 months prior to temporary importation into Russia.
Practical advice and miscellaneous information	A lost Customs declaration is not replaceable; It is recommended to carry a copy of your passport when in the city; Do not take unmarked taxis; Do not make acquaintances without your Russian friend's intermediary; Do not visit strangers' flats; Do not convert big amounts into roubles unless you know how to spend it; Do not keep your money in bags, unlocked pockets etc. Medical insurance is advisable but not compulsory Carry a small amount of cash in local currency.

*This document does not claim to include all known information on the subjects covered but the compilers and the Baltic Sea Cruising Network (BSCN) believe that the information contained represents a useful aid to those visiting the country by boat. Visitors should make prudent use of the information available on the websites quoted. No responsibility for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from action as a result of the material in this publication is accepted by the compilers or the Baltic Sea Cruising Network.*

BSCN/Useful Information/RUS-VI

First version 2008. Updated December 2017



<http://sailingunion.ru/>