
Virtual Laboratory Management Group

Seventh Meeting - VLMSG-7

Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation
22 to 25 July 2014



Virtual Laboratory Management Group Seventh Meeting - VLMG-7

At the kind invitation of Roshydromet (Moscow) and the Russian State Hydrometeorological University –RSHU (Saint Petersburg), and on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the seventh meeting of the WMO/CGMS Virtual Laboratory (VLab) for Education and Training in Satellite Meteorology Management Group (VLMG-7) will be held at the Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RSHU) in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 22-25 July 2014.

The Virtual Laboratory Management Group (VLMG) meets face to face every two years. This meeting offers a critical opportunity for all VLab partners to assess achievements, exchange experiences, address challenges, and take decisions that shape the VLab 's future.



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Before the Meeting

ARRIVING IN SAINT PETERSBURG BY AIR

If you are flying to Saint Petersburg, you will arrive at Pulkovo Airport, which provides good connection to major European and world capitals.

A member from the Local Organisers Team will be waiting for you at the airport to help with the transfer to the hotel. Please make sure your arrival time was correctly communicated to the Organisers (via [Google Doc spreadsheet](#) or via email to luveeck@googlemail.com). When arriving, please go to the “Meeting Point” (indicated in the map below) and identify yourself to the person holding the VLab sign.

In case of any unexpected changes or delays in your flights causing you to miss the arranged pick up time, the airport

Pulkovo Airport

Map of the Arrivals Hall. For an interactive map of the airport, please see the airport website at <http://www.pulkovoairport.ru/en/map/>





Taxi Booth

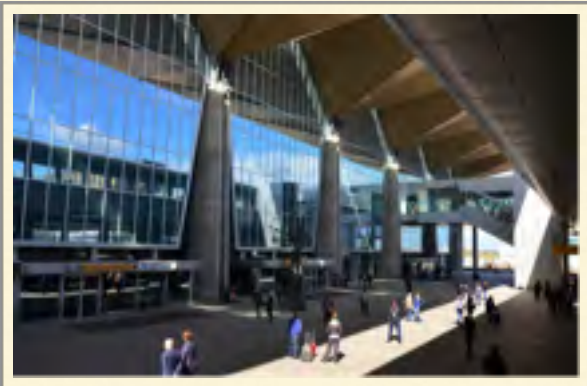
has easy access to both, public transport and taxi to transfer to hotels.

Taxis should be booked at the "Taxi Booths" in the Arrivals Hall. The staff at the Taxi Booths speak English and will calculate the cost of the journey to the hotel for you. Payment can be done at the Booth by cash (Russian Rubles) or credit card (they will issue a receipt, if you ask). The estimated cost of the journeys from the airport to the Nautilus Inn and to the Moscow Hotel are 1400.00 and 1700.00 RUR (respectively).

You are advised to take a taxi only from the affiliated Pulkovo Taxi (ordering your taxi from the Booths) and not using the service of numerous private drivers in the Arrivals Hall.

If you are concerned about communicating with taxi drivers who do not speak English, please see the Translated Taxi Instructions on pages 11 and 12. You could show the translated page to the driver.

Using public transport will be less expensive than taxi, but will involve taking a bus and also using the subway. The bus stop is just in front of the Arrivals Hall exit. Bus tickets to "Moskovskaya Metro Station" (where you should start your journey via subway) cost 25.00 RUR if taking the "City Bus number 39" or the "Express City Bus number 39A". You can also take the "Minivan Taxi number K39", which costs 36.00 RUR. Subway "tokens" cost 28.00 RUR for the whole ride (no matter the distance you travel). Be aware that if you are carrying large luggage you will need two tokens. For complete instructions on using public transport to go from the airport to the hotels (Nautilus Inn or Moscow Hotel), please see pages 13 and 14.



Bus Stop - the bus stop is located opposite to the statue just in front of the Arrivals Hall exit.





Subway Tokens

Subway “tokens” cost 28.00 RUR for the whole ride (no matter the distance you travel).

ARRIVING IN SAINT PETERSBURG BY TRAIN

You can also get to Saint Petersburg by train. Helsinki (Finland) has frequent trains to Saint Petersburg. If travelling by train you are most likely to arrive in Saint Petersburg at the Finlyandskiy Railway Station (trains arriving from Finland only) or at the Moskovskiy Railway Station (trains coming from countries other than Finland).

At the Railway Stations you will have access to both, public transport and taxi to transfer to hotels.

Taxis can be taken in front of the stations at an estimated cost of 600.00 to 800.00 RUR (if going to the Moscow Hotel or Nautilus Inn). Payment is by cash only. Most taxi drivers speak English, but you are advised to have the "Translated Taxi Instructions" with you (see pages 11 and 12).

Using public transport will involve taking only the subway, as both Railway Stations are connected to the subway. Subway “tokens” cost 28.00 RUR for the whole ride (no matter the distance you travel). Be aware that if you are carrying large luggage you will need two tokens. If you are staying at the Moscow Hotel or Nautilus Inn, please see pages 15 and 16 for complete instructions on the journey from the Railway Stations to the hotels. The map of Saint Petersburg Subway is available on page 17.



Nautilus Inn

ACCOMMODATION

Upon arrival at the hotel you will be asked to show your passport, as the hotel will make your registration with the Federal Migration Service. This is a mandatory procedure,



Moscow Hotel

which costs 150.00 RUR. For those staying at the Nautilus Inn, this cost is already included in the room price.

For those staying at the Moscow Hotel, please remember to have your reservation number with you, as you will be asked for it at the check in. If you need a confirmation of your reservation number, please contact the Organisers before you travel. Also important to remember is that the Moscow Hotel only accepts payment during weekdays (from 10:00 AM to 06:00 PM). We will organise help to bring payments to the hotel, as delegates will be attending the meeting during this period. Please contact Lu Veeck on the first day of the meeting (Tuesday 22 July) for more details on the arrangements.

WEATHER IN SAINT PETERSBURG IN JULY

Temperatures in July typically range from 20 to 25°C (68 to 77°F) during the day, and 14 to 16°C (57 to 61°F) at night.

For current weather forecasts please visit

<http://wmc.meteoinfo.ru/forecasts5000/russia/leningrad-region>

TIME ZONE

The standard time zone in Saint Petersburg is UTC/GMT + 4 hours.

At this time of the year (July) you will be experiencing a lot more daylight in Saint Petersburg. You should expect the sunrise around 05:00 AM and the sunset around 11:00 PM.

CURRENCY

The official Russian currency is the Russian Ruble.

The currency sign is ₽ and its ISO code is RUB. Ruble is subdivided into 100 kopeks (One ruble = 100 kopeks).

The Russian bank notes in circulation are 5, 10, 50, 100, 500, 1000 and 5000 rubles. The coins in circulation are 1, 5, 10 and 50 kopeks; and 1, 2, 5 and 10 rubles.

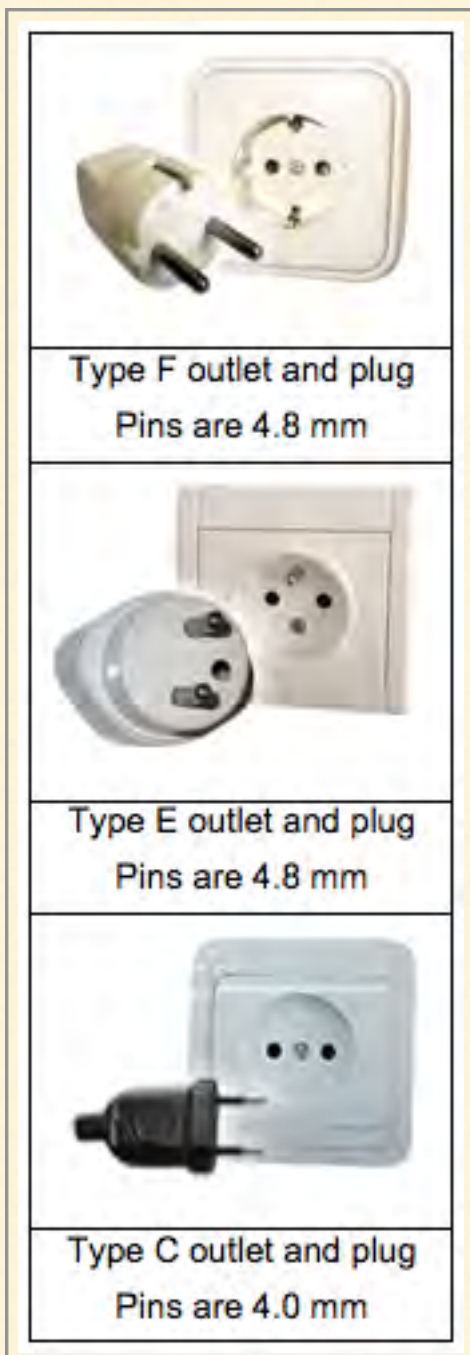
In Saint Petersburg banks are open Monday to Friday only (from 09:00 to 17:00). ATM machines can be found in the airport, lobbies of most hotels, in metro stations and next to banks.

Credit cards are widely accepted in large shops and most restaurants, however, it is always worth checking before you order. Visa and Mastercard are accepted almost everywhere, while American Express and Dinner's Club can rarely be used.

You should expect to pay around 900 Russian Roubles for a meal, but of course this will depend on your choice of restaurant.

POWER SUPPLY

The power voltage in Saint Petersburg is 220 volts, and frequency is 50 Hz. The electrical sockets most commonly found in new constructions are Type F outlets (see picture below), but you will still find a lot of sockets based on the old standard used, which is Type C outlet. Type E plugs (commonly used in Europe) will also fit in Type F outlets.



Power supply

Most usual types of plugs and outlets.

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During the Meeting

THE VENUE

VLMG-7 will be hosted by the Russian State Hydrometeorological University - RSHU. The university is located within walking distance from both hotels indicated by the Local Organisers. See maps on page 18.

On Tuesday (22 July), members of the Local Organising Team will be meeting delegates at the lobby of both hotels (Nautilus Inn and Moscow Hotel) to guide the way to RSHU. Please make sure you are ready to leave the hotel at 09:20 AM.

The address of the Russian State Hydrometeorological University is:

Malookhtinsky prospect, 98

Saint Petersburg - 195 196

Russian State Hydrometeorological University - RSHU

For more information about the university, please see the RSHU website at <http://www.rshu.ru/eng/>



CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS

There are three people to phone in case you need to communicate with the Organisers of VLMG-7 during your stay in Saint Petersburg. They are:

Eduard Podgaitsky - Mobile: +7 9052741856

Maria Mamaeva - Office: +7 812 633 0196, Mobile: +7 9112175590

Lu Veeck - Mobile: +44 7773226090

INTERNET ACCESS

Wireless Internet Access will be available in the meeting room at RSHU. Participants will be provided with a password on the first day of the meeting.

TEA/COFFEE BREAKS AND LUNCHESES

Tea/coffee breaks will be kindly provided by the Local Organisers and are arranged for mid morning and mid afternoon (11:00 AM and 03:30 PM)

Lunches will be served at “Maestro Cafe”, on Tallinskaya street, 20. The cafe is about 5 minutes walk from university.

SOCIAL EVENTS

There are three social events planned to take place during VLMG-7: Icebreaker (22 July), Excursion (24 July) and Conference Dinner (24 July).

The Icebreaker will be taking place in RSHU at 06:00 PM, just after we finish the work in our first day of the meeting.

The Excursion will bring delegates to visit Saint Petersburg Flood Protection System, the complex of dams and waterways across the Gulf of Finland and Kotlin island. The site is about one hour away from the university, so a bus will be picking us up at RSHU after lunch. We should leave RSHU at 03:00 PM.

From the town of Kronstadt on Kotlin island and local landmark - the Naval Cathedral of St Nicolas - we will take the bus again and go directly to one of riverside depots, where we will embark on a boat for a trip on the river Neva. The conference dinner will be served during the boat trip.

Please, make sure you bring a jacket with you, as the places we are visiting are quite open and commonly windy.

We shall be heading back to the hotels around 11:00 PM. The bus will bring delegates back to the hotels Moscow and Nautilus Inn.

Naval Cathedral of Saint Nicolas

The most famous monument of architecture of the city of Kronstadt. The cathedral was built in 1902-1913.



Photo: Lornet/Shutterstock.com

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Maps, translated instructions and other useful bits

The next few pages contain the maps, translated instructions to provide taxi drivers when going to the hotels and also the complete description of the journeys from airport and train stations to the hotels.

To give you a better idea of the programme for the meeting, the Agenda (as updated on the 15 July 2014) is also included. There may be some changes in the Agenda, as a few presenters still need to confirm their participation. Any changes in the Agenda will be communicated on the first day of the meeting (Tuesday 22 July 2014).

Translated instructions - Hotel Moscow

	Virtual Laboratory Management Group, Seventh Meeting -VLMG-7 22-25 July 2014 St. Petersburg, the Russian Federation						
<table border="1"><tr><td data-bbox="312 1298 899 1669"><p>Гостиница Москва Площадь Александра Невского, д. 2, Санкт-Петербург тел . +7 812 3332444</p><p>Moscow Hotel Alexander Nevsky sq, 2 Saint Petersburg tel. +7 812 3332444</p></td><td data-bbox="1064 1298 1586 1553"><p>Please take me to the Moscow Hotel (address indicate on the left)</p><p>Пожалуйста, отвезите меня в гостиницу „Москва”, адрес указан слева</p></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2" data-bbox="997 1588 1780 2064"></td></tr></table>				<p>Гостиница Москва Площадь Александра Невского, д. 2, Санкт-Петербург тел . +7 812 3332444</p> <p>Moscow Hotel Alexander Nevsky sq, 2 Saint Petersburg tel. +7 812 3332444</p>	<p>Please take me to the Moscow Hotel (address indicate on the left)</p> <p>Пожалуйста, отвезите меня в гостиницу „Москва”, адрес указан слева</p>		
<p>Гостиница Москва Площадь Александра Невского, д. 2, Санкт-Петербург тел . +7 812 3332444</p> <p>Moscow Hotel Alexander Nevsky sq, 2 Saint Petersburg tel. +7 812 3332444</p>	<p>Please take me to the Moscow Hotel (address indicate on the left)</p> <p>Пожалуйста, отвезите меня в гостиницу „Москва”, адрес указан слева</p>						
							

Translated instructions - Nautilus Inn Hotel



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Гостиница Наутилус Inn
ул. Рижская, д. 3,
Санкт-Петербург
тел . +7 812 4499000

Nautilus Inn Hotel
Rizhskaya str., 3
Saint Petersburg
tel . +7 812 4499000

Please take me to the Nautilus Inn Hotel
(address indicate on the left)

Пожалуйста, отвезите меня
в гостиницу „Наутилус Inn”,
адрес указан слева

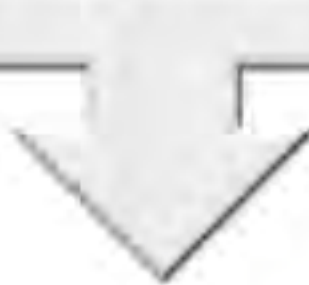


From Airport to Moscow Hotel

From Pulkovo Airport to Moscow Hotel

From Pulkovo Airport

Take the "City bus №39", the "Express City Bus №39A" or the "Minivan Taxi K39" and leave the bus on bus stop «Moskovskaya» (this is also a subway metro station – blue line). From here, follow the instructions given below.



From Moskovskaya Subway Station:

Take the metro train going towards "Parnas" (blue line) and leave the train at the metro station "Nevskiy prospekt". Transit to the station "Gostiny Dvor" (green line). Take the train going towards "Rybatskoye" (green line) and leave the train at station "Ploschad Aleksandra Nevskogo 1". The hotel is located in the same building, about 50 meters to the left of the metro exit.

Make sure you bring the Saint Petersburg Subway Map with you too. It will help finding the stations.



Moscow Hotel

Address: Alexander Nevsky square, 2 Saint Petersburg

Phone: +7 812 333 2 444

Website: <http://www.hotel-moscow.ru/en/>

From Airport to Nautilus Inn

From Pulkovo Airport to Nautilus Inn

From Pulkovo Airport

Take the "City bus №39", the "Express City Bus №39A" or the "Minivan Taxi K39" and leave the bus on bus stop «**Moskovskaya**» (this is also a subway metro station – **blue line**). From here, follow the instructions given below.



From Moskovskaya Subway Station:

Take the metro train going towards "Parnas" (**blue line**) and leave the train at the station "Sennaya Ploshad". Transit to the station "Spasskaya" (**orange line**). Take the train going towards "Ulitsa Dybenko" (**orange line**) and leave the train at station "Novocherkasskaya". When you leave the metro go to the left, staircase № 12 (Given that there are 12 exits around the square, when turning left, first exit would be № 1, next to the left is № 12). From the exit, walk straight along Novocherkassky prospect (approximately 10 min) until you come to the crossroads with Rizhskaya street and then turn to the right.

Make sure you bring the Saint Petersburg Subway Map with you too. It will help finding the stations.



Nautilus Inn

Address: Rizhskaya ulitsa, 3 Saint Petersburg

Phone: +7 812 449 90 00

Website: <http://www.nautilus-inn.ru/en>

From Railway Stations to Moscow Hotel

From Railway Stations to Moscow Hotel

From Finlyandskiy Railway Station (trains arriving from Finland)

Go to the subway metro station "Ploschad Lenina" (red line) which is inside of the Railway Station. Take the metro train towards "Prospekt Veteranov" (red line) and leave the train at the station "Ploschad Vosstaniya". Transit to the station "Mayakovskaya" (green line). From here, follow the instructions given below.

From Moskovskiy Railway Station (trains arriving from countries other than Finland)

Go to the subway metro station "Ploschad Vosstaniya" (red line) which is inside of the Railway Station. Transit to the station "Mayakovskaya" (green line). From here, follow the instructions given below.

From Mayakovskaya Subway Station:

Take a metro train going towards "Rybatskoye" (green line). Leave the train at the station "Ploschad Aleksandra Nevskogo 1". The hotel is located in the same building, about 50 meters to the left of the metro exit.

Make sure you bring the Saint Petersburg Subway Map with you too. It will help finding the stations.



Moscow Hotel

Address: Alexander Nevsky square, 2 Saint Petersburg

Phone: +7 812 333 2 444

Website: <http://www.hotel-moscow.ru/en/>

From Railway Stations to Nautilus Inn

From Railway Stations to Nautilus Inn

From Finlyandskiy Railway Station (trains arriving from Finland)

Go to the subway metro station "Ploschad Lenina" (red line) which is inside of the Railway Station. Take the metro train towards "Prospekt Veteranov" (red line) and leave the train at station "Vladimirskaya". From here, follow the instructions given below.

From Moskovskiy Railway Station (trains arriving from countries other than Finland)

Go to the subway metro station "Ploschad Vosstaniya" (red line) which is inside of the Railway Station. Take the metro train going towards "Prospekt Veteranov" (red line) and leave the train at station "Vladimirskaya". From here, follow the instructions given below.

From Vladimirskaya Subway Station:

Transit to station "Dostoyevskaya" (orange line). Take the metro train going towards "Ulitsa Dybenko" (orange line) and leave the train at the station "Novocherkasskaya". When you leave the metro go to the left, staircase № 12 (Given that there are 12 exits around the square, when turning left, first exit would be № 1, next to the left is № 12). From the exit, walk straight along Novocherkassky prospect (approximately 10 min) until you come to the crossroads with Rizhskaya street and then turn to the right.

Make sure you bring the Saint Petersburg Subway Map with you too. It will help finding the stations.



Nautilus Inn

Address: Rizhskaya ulitsa, 3 Saint Petersburg

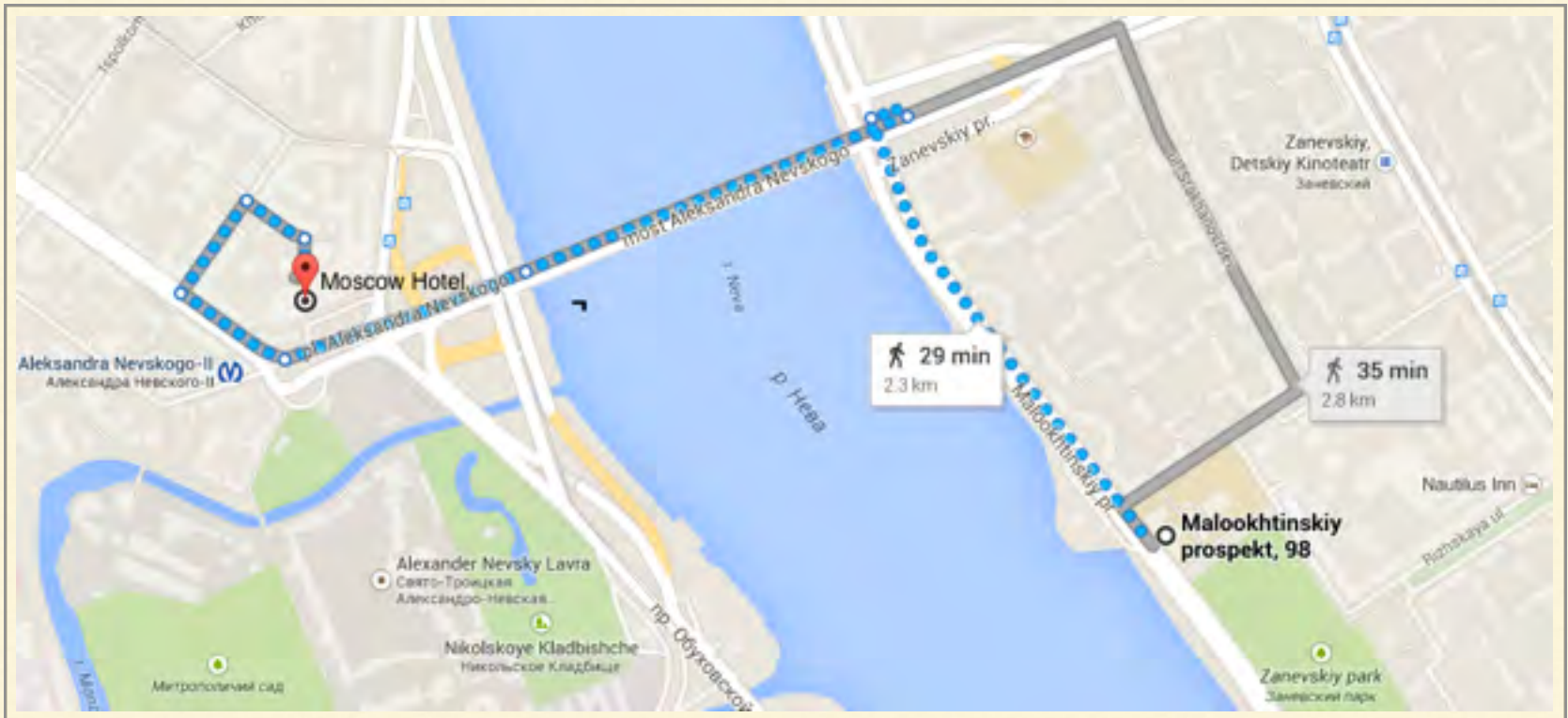
Phone: +7 812 449 90 00

Website: <http://www.nautilus-inn.ru/en>

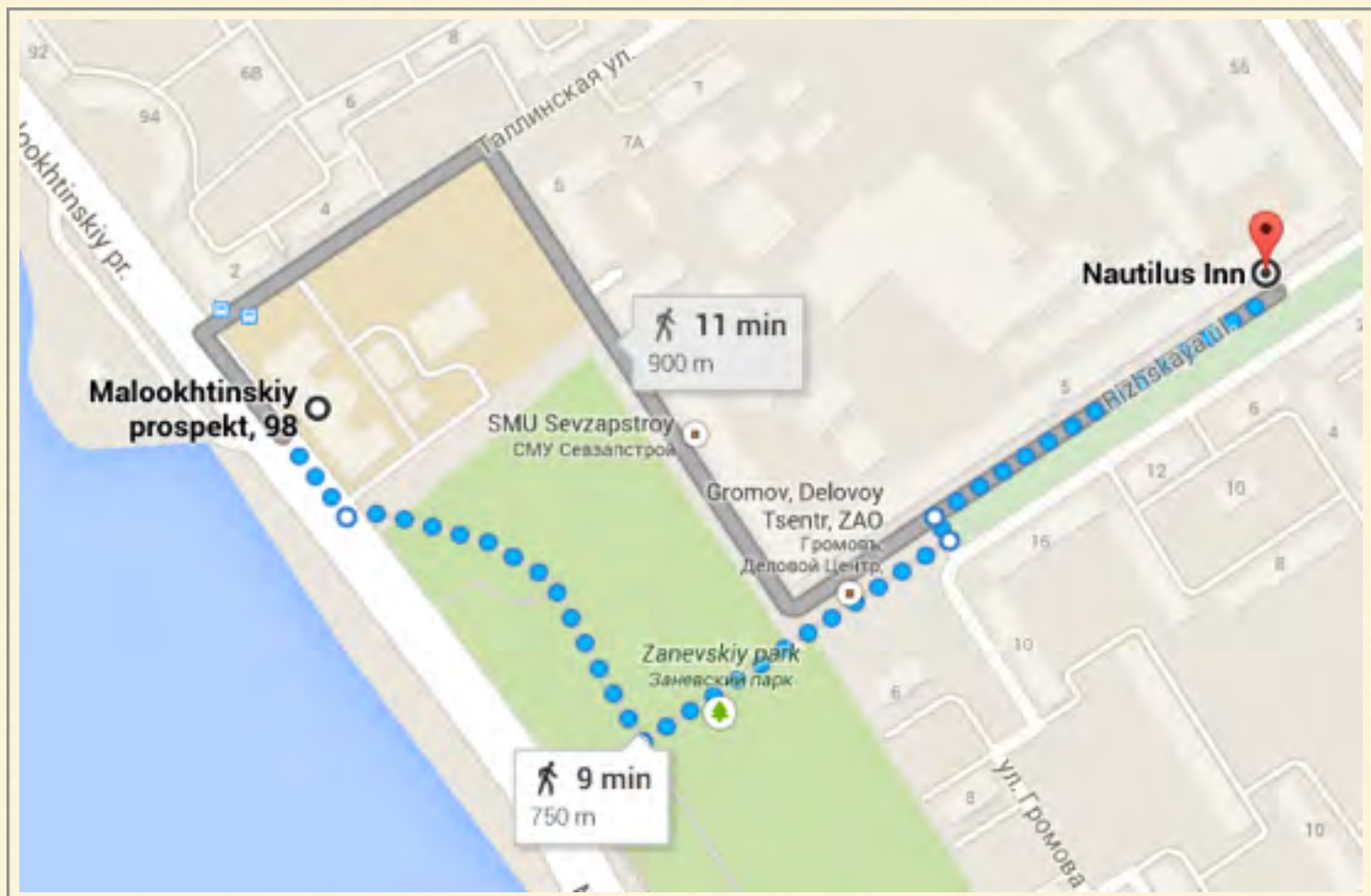
Saint Petersburg Subway Map



Walking from Hotels to RSHU



From Moscow Hotel to RSHU (Malookhtinsky prospekt, 98).



From Nautilus Inn to RSHU (Malookhtinsky prospekt, 98).

VLMG-7 Agenda - Tuesday, 22 July 2014



Virtual Laboratory Management Group, Seventh Meeting (VLMG-7)
22 - 25 July 2014
Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

AGENDA Tuesday, 22 July 2014

Time	Sessions	Presenters*
09:30-10:00	Registration and information	
10:00-10:30	1. Opening Welcome	RSHU/ROSHYDROMET: TBC WMO: S. Bojinski VLab co-chairs: V. Gärtner and K-A. Caesar
10:30-10:45	News/Announcements	E. Podgaisky / L. Veeck
10:45-11:05	2. Presentations by CoEs (15 min presentation each)	Russian Federation
11:05-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-13:00	2. Presentations by CoEs (continuing)	Argentina Australia Barbados China/Beijing
13:00-14:00	Lunch break	
14:00-15:30	2. Presentations by CoE (continuing)	China/Nanjing Costa Rica Kenya Brazil
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-16:20	3. Review of actions (from VLMG-6, CGMS-41/42, ETSUP-7/8 and web-meetings)	V. Gärtner & K-A. Caesar
16:20-17:00	4. VLab Virtual Library – the use of ESRC and other options	L. Veeck
17:00-17:30	5. COMET	B. Muller
17:30 -18:00	Summary of the day	Wrap-up and review of recommendations and actions
18:00-19:30	ICE BREAKER	

* Sessions highlighted in yellow will be presented online.

VLMG-7 Agenda - Wednesday, 23 July 2014



Virtual Laboratory Management Group, Seventh Meeting (VLMG-7)
22 - 25 July 2014
Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

AGENDA Wednesday, 23 July 2014

Time	Sessions	Presenters*
09:30-09:40	News/Announcements	E. Podgaisky / L. Veeck
09:40-11:00	2. Presentations by CoE (continuing)	Morocco Niger Oman South Africa
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-11:50	6. WMO Space Programme Update	S. Bojinski
11:50-12:30	7. Conceptual Models for the Southern Hemisphere – CM4SH	V. Nietosvaara and CM4SH participants
12:30-13:00	8. ASMET	H. Hama and V. Nietosvaara
13:00-14:00	Lunch break	
14:00-14:30	9. VLab Virtual Round Table – Climate 2014	K-A Caesar and presenters of Aviation VRT 2013
14:30-15:00	10. Training channels GEONETCast & EUMETCast	B. Connell and EUMETSAT
15:00-15:30	11. CALMet Online	V. Nietosvaara and Y. Purwanti
15:30-16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-16:40	12. Certification of VLab training activities	CoE Australia and BMKG, CoE Morocco and VLab Office
16:40-17:40	13. WMO ETR	A. Semple and J. Wilson
17:40-18:00	Summary of the day	Wrap-up and review of actions and recommendations

* Sessions highlighted in yellow will be presented online.

VLMG-7 Agenda - Thursday, 24 July 2014



Virtual Laboratory Management Group, Seventh Meeting (VLMG-7)
22 - 25 July 2014
Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

AGENDA Thursday, 24 July 2014

Time	Sessions	Presenters*
09:30-09:40	News/Announcements	E. Podgaisky / L. Veeck
09:40-11:00	14. Presentations by Supporting Satellite Operators and Agencies (15 min each)	ROSHYDROMET JMA - to be confirmed KMA - to be confirmed CMA
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-12:30	14. Presentations by Supporting Satellite Operators and Agencies (continuing)	EUMETSAT NOAA/NESDIS CONAE - to be confirmed
	Presentations by Invited Guests	Planeta – A. Mozer Satellite Competencies – R. Deslandes - to be confirmed
13:00-14:00	15. How do we know if we are doing a good job? – Results from VLab Members self-assessment	M. Higgins and Lu Veeck.
14:00-15:00	Lunch break	
15:00- 18:00	Sightseeing trip	
	CONFERENCE DINNER	

* Sessions highlighted in yellow will be presented online.

VLMG-7 Agenda - Friday, 25 July 2014



Virtual Laboratory Management Group, Seventh Meeting (VLMG-7)
22 - 25 July 2014
Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

AGENDA Friday, 25 July 2014

Time	Sessions	Presenters*
09:30-09:40	News/Announcements	E. Podgaisky / L. Veeck
09:40-10:20	16. RFG Presentation and discussion	B. Zeschke and Larissa Nikitina
10:20-11:00	17. Presentations by Partner Projects and Invited Guests	BMKG – Y. Purwanti IMD – A. K. Sharma
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-12:30	17. Presentations by Partner Projects and Invited Guests	CEOS WGCapD – J. Olwoch (SANSA) EUMETCAL – A. Chiariello COSPAR – S. Bojinski
12:30-13:00	18. Review of VLab Five Years Strategy and its alignment with WMO	K-A. Caesar & V. Gärtner
13:00-14:00	Lunch break	
14:00-14:20	19. VLab online Calendar of Events and Reporting Tool	L. Veeck
14:20-15:00	20. Conclusions and Outlook	K-A. Caesar & E. Podgaiskii
15:00-15:30	Coffee break	
15:30-16:30	21. Review of actions and recommendations	K-A. Caesar, E. Podgaiskii & L. Veeck
16:30-17:00	Organization of future VLMG meetings	K-A. Caesar & E. Podgaiskii
17:00-17:15	Closure of the Meeting	K-A. Caesar & E. Podgaiskii

* Sessions highlighted in yellow will be presented online.