

ST. PETERSBURG THE 19TH, 20TH AND 21TH OG MAY
Peterhof the 20th of May

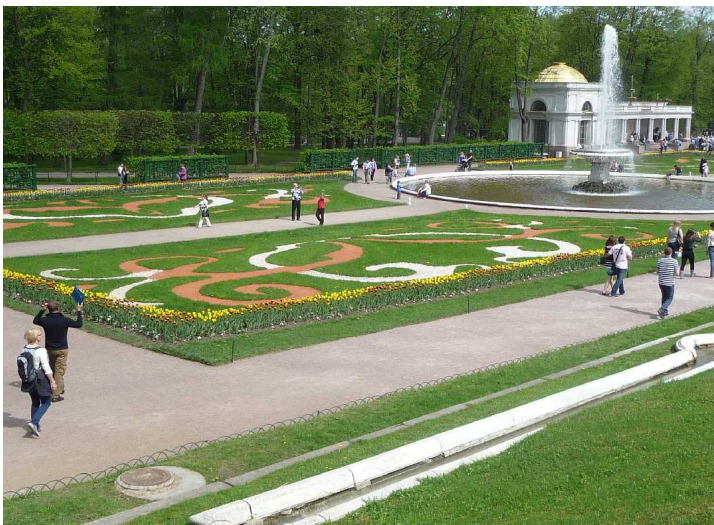
After we had been in the Hermitage and looked at art, we went with the bus out of the city to [Peterhof](#). It is situated on the south bank of the Gulf of Finland, about 25 km west of St. Petersburg. The original palace was built on the orders of Peter the Great, and the facility was later expanded by his successors. Peterhof, also called “The Russian Versailles”, is one of Russia’s World Heritage Sites, along with St. Petersburg’s historic center and other monuments and palaces in the city. The palace, with its gardens, park castles and fountains, is today one of the main tourist destinations in Russia.



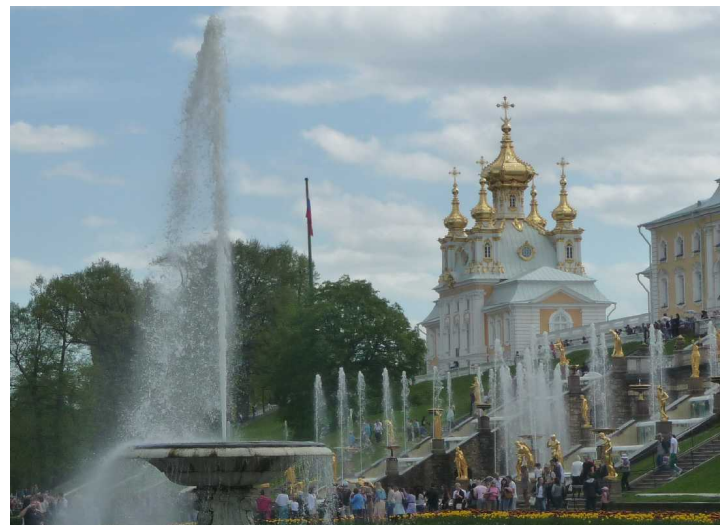
Here we come to Elizabeth I I’s [Grand Palace](#).



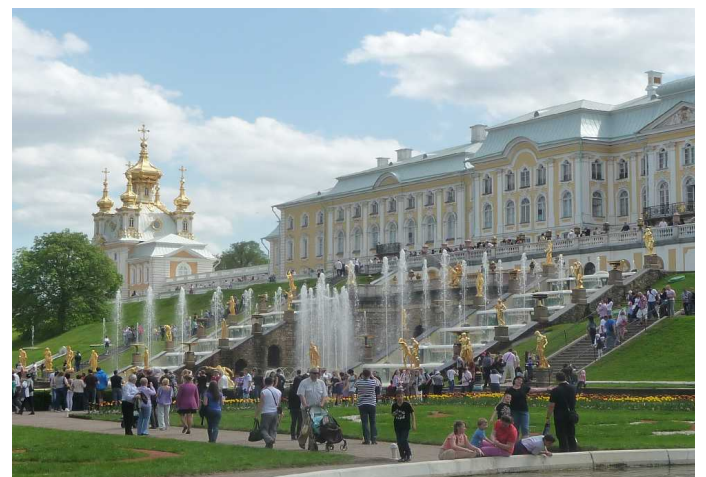
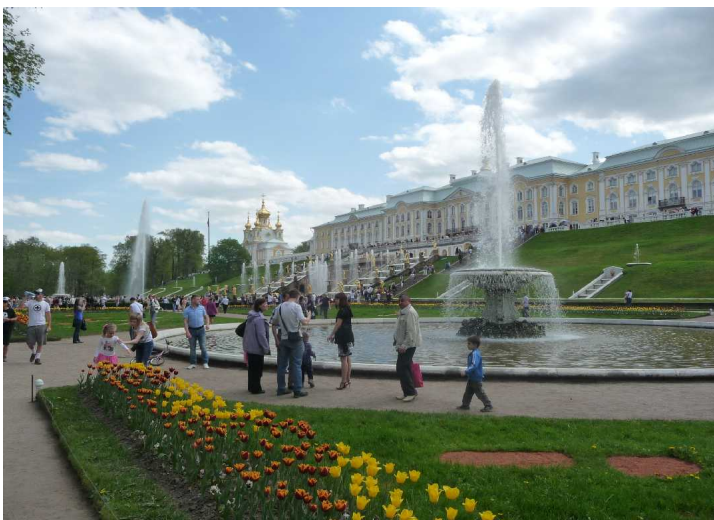
The [park](#) and the [fountains](#) below.



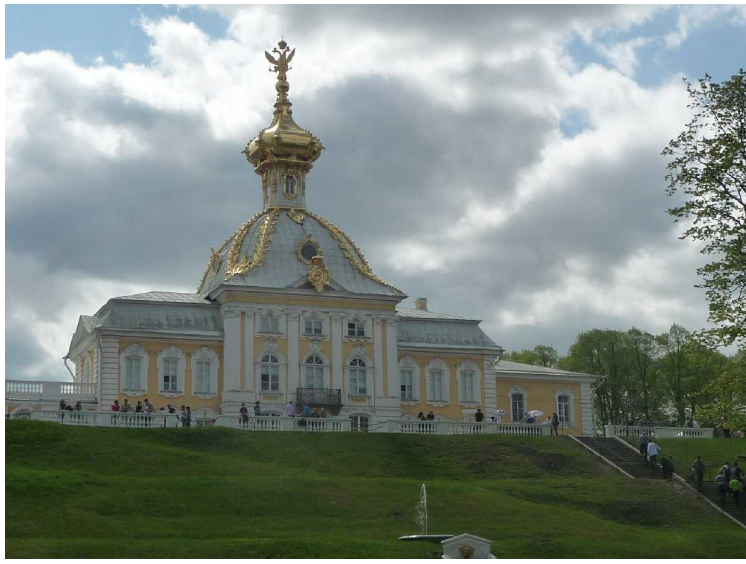
Neatly clipped.



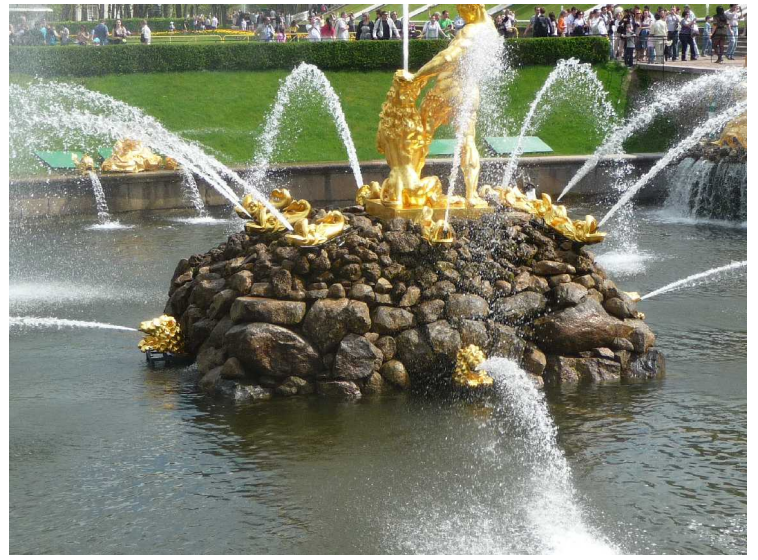
Impressive fountains.



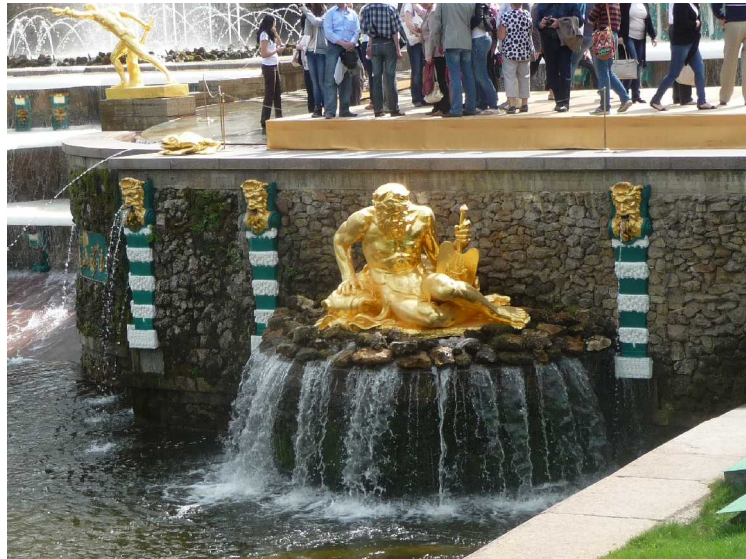
The palace church is farthest away.



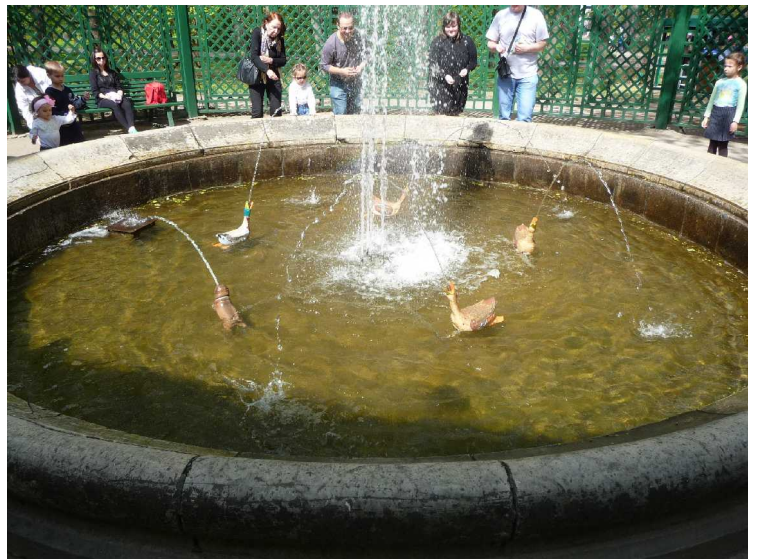
A part of Grand Palace seen from below.



There is gold in the fountains too. It is worth noting that the water comes in aqueducts from a ridge outside Peterhof, and all works by gravity without the use of pumps.



Anne Berit and the lion.



A fountain with mechanical ducks swimming around. It seemed that it also functioned as a wishing well, for there were many who threw coins into the fountain.

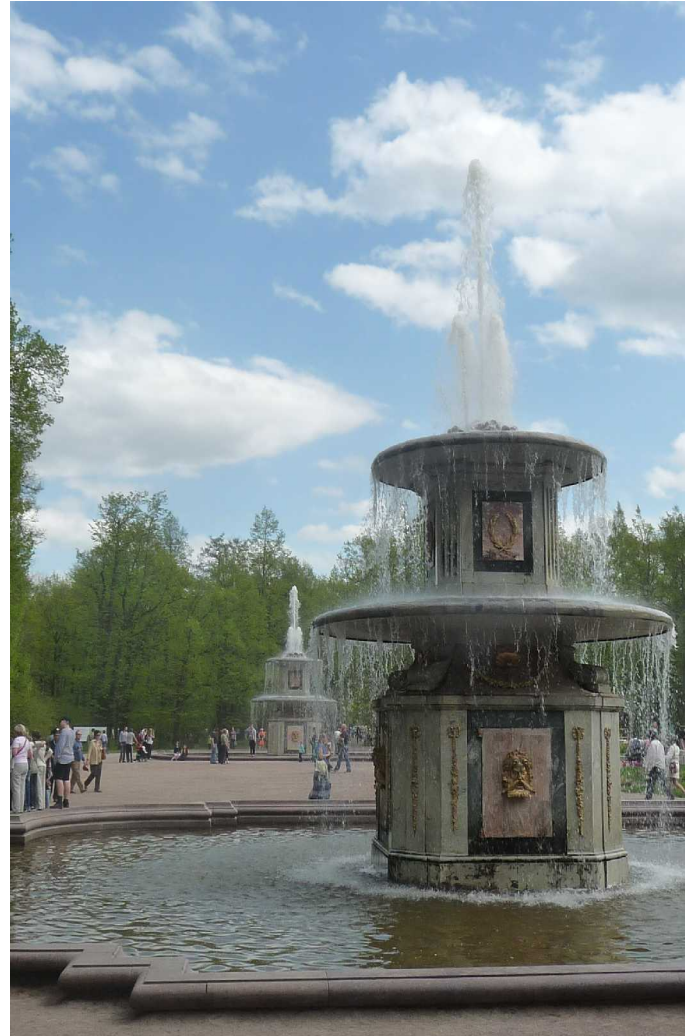


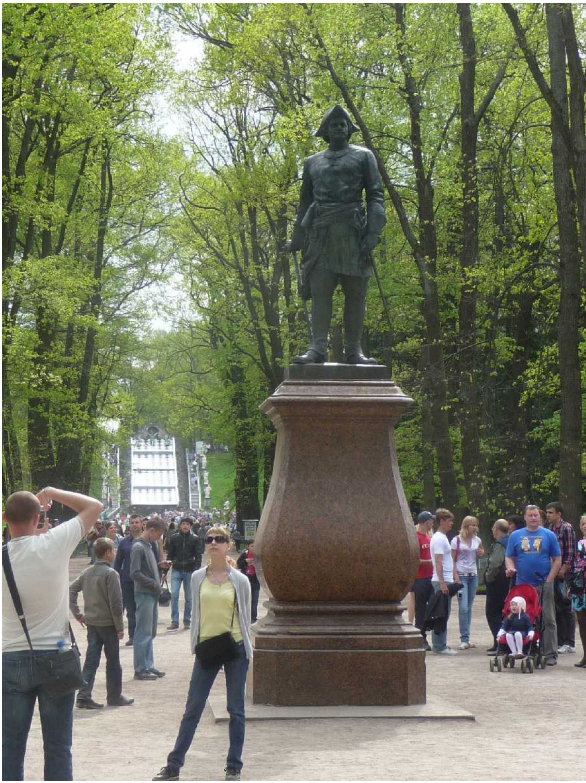
This is the sea channel that runs from the [Gulf of Finland](#) and into the fountains. It splits the park in two.

Such clothing was used by the court of Peter the Great.



More fountains.

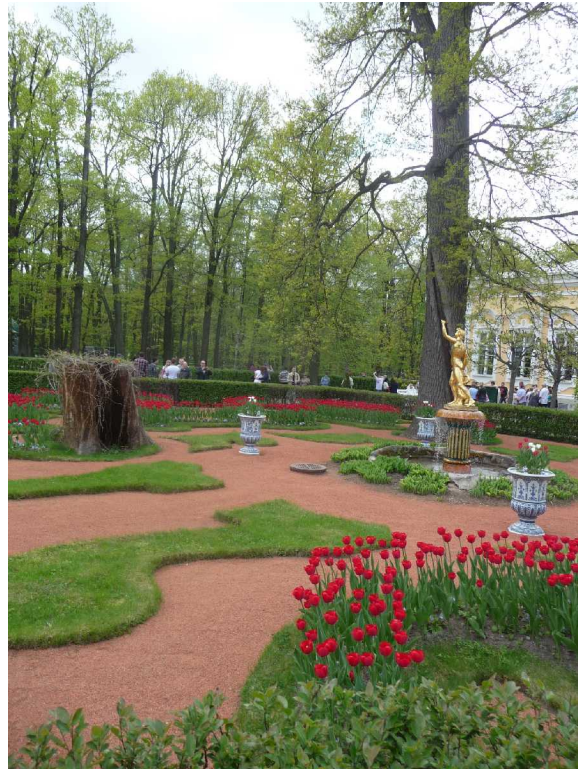




Here stands Peter the Great.



A pavilion in the lower garden.



This is the summer home, which Peter the Great built for themselves. It's called [Monplaisir](#).



The Katherine house.



View over the Gulf of Finland.



Deck with great views of the Gulf of Finland.



Views across the Gulf of Finland.

After two eventful days in St. Petersburg, it was time to return home on the 21st. We were early at the airport and that was needed. We have never been in an airport, which has been denser packed with people. We stood in a continuous line from the time we walked in the door until we had been through all the controls. There was also lousy ventilation. We found two vacant chairs in a tiny cafe. There we sat until we saw that we were allowed to go to the buses. When almost everyone had entered the bus, we were told that our plane was not cleared, so we had to get off the bus again and into the waiting hall. But there were so packed with people that we did not manage to get back in again. Then the guards locked us into the air locks, where we had to stay until the plane was ready. We had an intermediate stop at Arlanda in Stockholm before the last flight to Oslo Airport, Gardermoen. There was plenty of space and good air. It was like coming to another planet.