

# Famous museums of the world (part 1)

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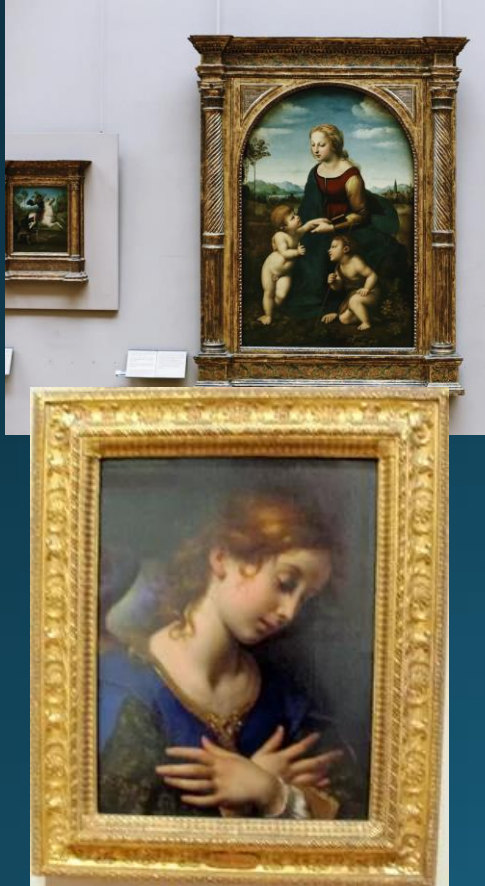
# The Louvre Museum (Musée du Louvre)

- The Louvre Museum (Musée du Louvre) is one of the most famous sights of Paris. The Louvre is known to tourists, first of all, not as a magnificent architectural monument that once served as the home of the French kings, but as the most famous museum in the world, where art connoisseurs from all corners of the globe are drawn.





- The museum has more than 400,000 exhibits, of which 35,000 are on display. The collections are divided into eight sections – Oriental antiquities, Egyptian antiquities, Greek, Etruscan and Roman, Islamic art, sculpture, painting, art objects and graphic art. The Denon wing is the most visited part of the museum, where the collection of Italian paintings, including the Mona Lisa, is kept.





# Masterpieces



- The hallmark of the Louvre is the famous Gioconda or, as it is also called, the Mona Lisa. It is to this picture that all the signs lead, which are obediently followed by streams of tourists. The Mona Lisa is covered with thick armored glass, and there are always two guards and crowds of fans next to her.

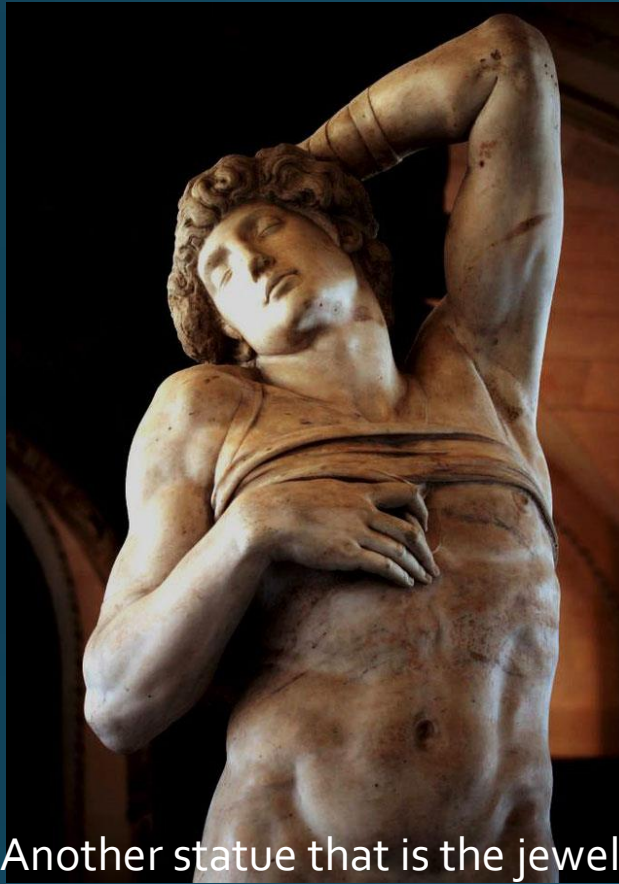


Venus of Milo (Aphrodite) is no less famous than the previous beauty. The author of Venus is considered to be the sculptor Agesander of Antioch. In 1820, because of her, a heated dispute ensued between the Turks and the French, during which the statue of the goddess was thrown to the ground and the beautiful sculpture broke. The French were picking up the pieces in a hurry and... lost the hands of Venus! So the goddess of love and beauty became a victim of the battle for the beautiful. By the way, the hands of Venus have not been found, so this story may not be over yet.





Another symbol of the Louvre is **Nika of Samothrace**, the goddess of victory. Unlike Venus de Milo, this beauty managed to lose not only her hands, but also her head.



Another statue that is the jewel of the Louvre collection is a Prisoner, or a dying slave (**Michelangelo's work**).



The statue of Ramses II sitting is another masterpiece that the Louvre can be proud of. This ancient Egyptian sculpture is located on the ground floor in the Sully wing, in the 12th Hall of Egyptian Antiquities.



Stele mit dem Codex - Hammurabi vor Gott Šamaš - Ausschnitt des Textes

The Louvre also has a wonderful collection of monuments of Mesopotamia, the heart of which is the code of laws of Hammurabi, written on a basalt stele.





The Louvre was built at the end of the XII century by King Philip Augustus. At that time, the Louvre was only a defensive fortress, but this structure has been undergoing changes for centuries. Almost every king of France considered it necessary to bring something new to the appearance of the Louvre. So, in the middle of the XVI century, Francis I, who decided to make the Louvre his Paris residence, ordered his court architect to build a palace in the Renaissance style, and at the end of the XVI century, King Henry IV ordered to remove the remains of the medieval fortress, expand the courtyard and connect the Tuileries and Louvre palaces.



In 1682, the royal court moved to Versailles and the Louvre fell into disrepair until the French Revolution. In 1750, they even started talking about the possible demolition of the palace.

Napoleon breathed new life into the Louvre when he resumed work on the construction of the Louvre. In addition, Napoleon made a huge contribution to the expansion of the museum's collection, demanding from each nation he defeated a kind of tribute in the form of works of art. Now the museum's catalog has about 3



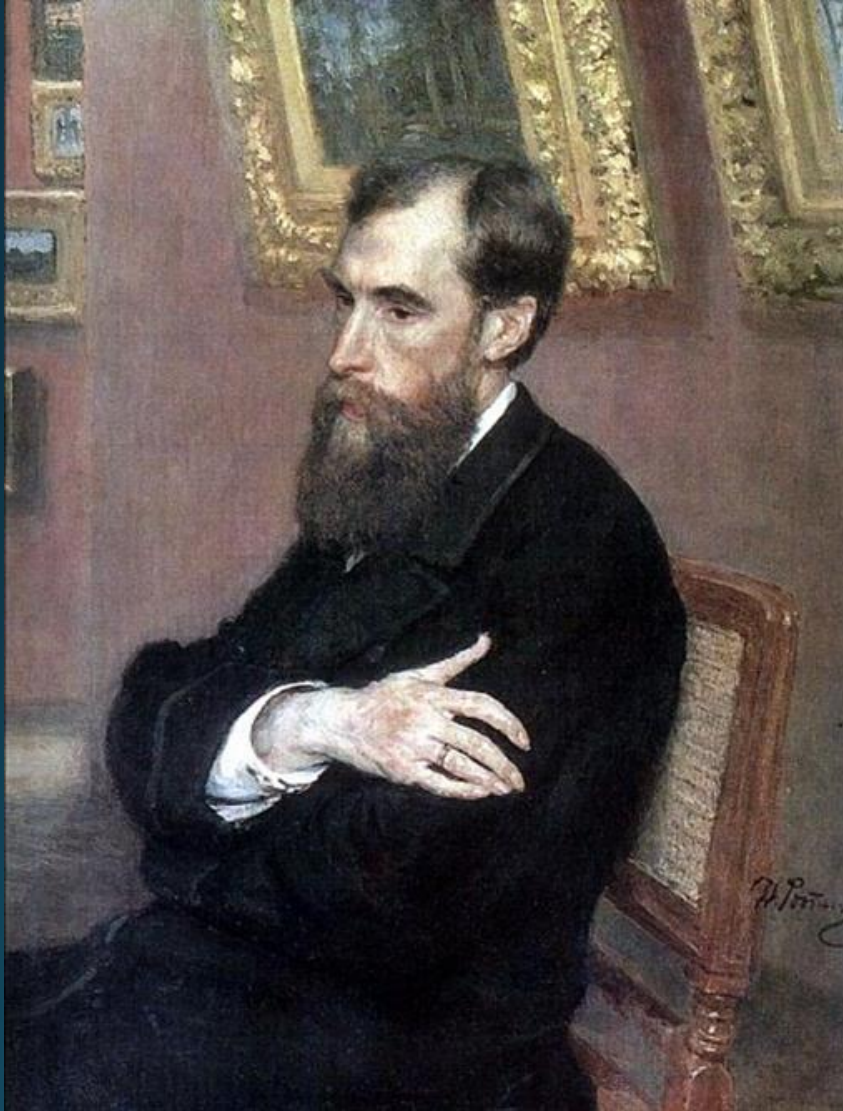
# The State Tretyakov Gallery

- The Tretyakov Gallery is the most famous art museum in Moscow, it is also the main treasury of the national art of Russia, reflecting the significant contribution of our country to world culture.





- Pavel Mikhailovich Tretyakov, the founder of the gallery, belonged to a famous merchant family.



The beginning of the legendary Tretyakov collection was laid in 1856. The young merchant was only 24 years old at that time. P. M. Tretyakov has been replenishing his unique and priceless collection for several decades. He collected canvases not only by outstanding painters, but also maintained friendly relations with novice masters, not refusing to help those who needed it, in every possible way promoted their work.



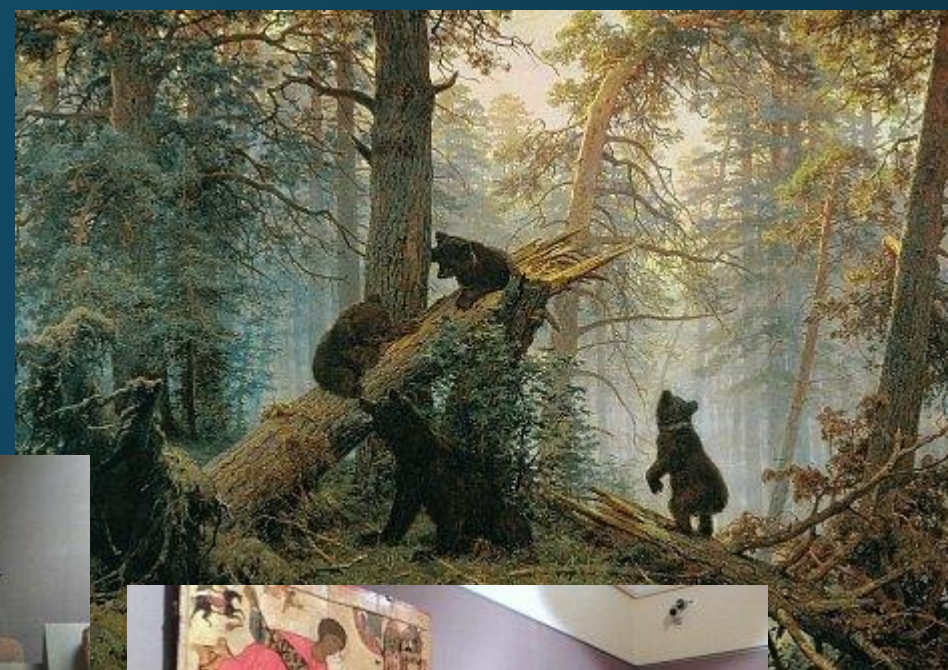


- In the summer of 1892 Pavel Mikhailovich donated his collection in Moscow. So the Tretyakov Gallery became the first publicly accessible museum in Russia.





The modern collection includes more than 170 thousand works of Russian art. The exposition is divided into sections, each covering a specific historical period. Russian art, starting from the XII and ending with the XVIII century; painting of the XVII — first half of the XIX century; painting of the second half of the XIX century; Russian graphics from the XIII to the XIX century, as well as Russian sculpture of the same period.

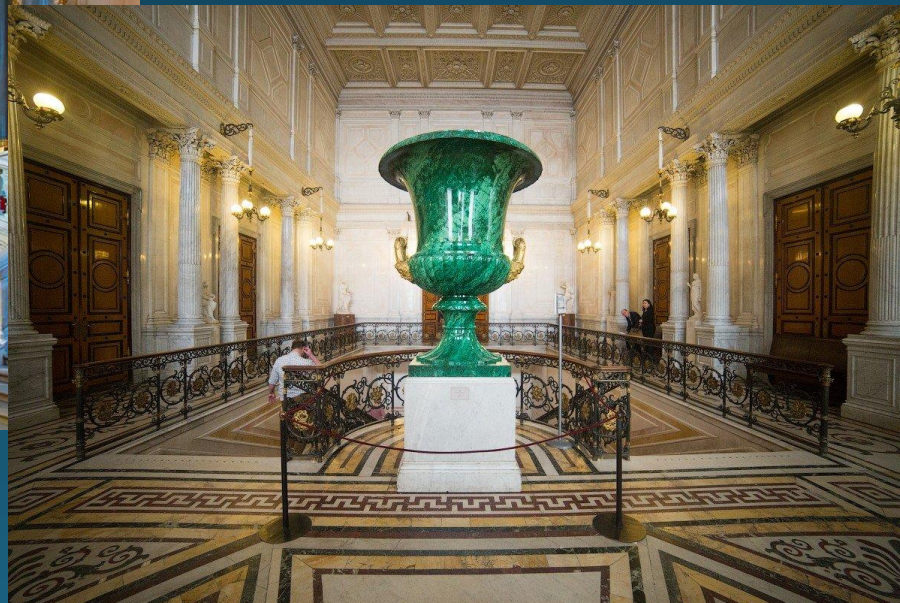




# Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg



The Russian museum complex of world importance, the first buildings of which were laid during the reign of Empress Elizabeth. To this day, the elegance and genius of the Hermitage are admired by many modern experts. The foundations of the collection were collected during the reign of Catherine II, by her own order, separate buildings were rebuilt to store paintings, sculptures and decorative and applied arts. Today's complex includes five historical buildings on Palace Square, among which the Winter Palace is considered the main one, the Menshikov Palace on the University Embankment and the General Staff Building.





- It houses such internationally recognized masterpieces as Rembrandt's "The Return of the Prodigal Son", Leonardo da Vinci's "Madonna Litta" and "Madonna Benoit", Raphael's "Madonna Connestabile" and "The Holy Family", Caravaggio's "Lutenist", paintings by Titian, Murillo, El Greco and many other famous painters. The Hermitage in St. Petersburg has one of the world's best collections of French paintings of the late XIX - early XX centuries.



«Мадонна Конестабиле»

ок. 1504 года

Эрмитаж

"Святое семейство"

1506-1507 гг.

Эрмитаж



Караваджо  
Лютнист 1595





# The Hermitage in the XIX century

- In the XIX century, after the end of the war with the French, the Hermitage got the collection of Josephine Beauharnais, Napoleon's wife. The Patriotic War of 1812 left its mark on the appearance of the Hermitage: in the reign of Nicholas I, everything was done to perpetuate the memory of the heroes of the battles. Portraits of generals and reliefs with patriotic symbols appeared in the halls of the complex.
- In the Nicholas period, Alexander Bryullov, the brother of the famous painter, worked on the interior decoration of the Hermitage.





# The history of the complex in the XX century

During the First World War, a hospital was organized in the Hermitage. After the February Revolution, the Provisional Government met here, which was arrested right in the palace during the Bolshevik coup. On November 12, 1917, the Hermitage became a state museum. Before the Second World War, the collection grew significantly due to the nationalization of private collections and the unification of various museums, valuable exhibits came from the Union republics. During the war, the assembly was evacuated to Sverdlovsk, from November 1945 everything was returned to its place again.



The hospital in the palace during the First World War



Зал Рубенса



Георгиевский зал



# Current state. Winter Palace



Зал, посвященный искусству Древней Греции

The main exposition of the first floor of the Winter Palace is ancient art and archeology, the second – French and English paintings of the XVI-XVIII centuries and interiors of various eras, the third – classical art of Asian countries. The halls of the second floor deserve special mention: the Throne, Alexander, Bolshoi, Concert, chamber rooms of Empress Maria Alexandrovna and the family of the last emperor.



Малая столовая



Триптих "Поклонение волхвов".  
Ниделанды.  
XV век



Скифская фигурка из золота, VII в. до н. э.



Стела Хекайба. Древний Египет. XXII–XXI вв. до н. э.



# The Small Hermitage

The building is connected with the Winter Palace by the Sivkov Passage with a platform where ancient Roman mosaics, sarcophagi and reliefs are stored. Four copies of the Bakhchisarai fountain, mosaics and the Peacock clock are on display here. The bronze clockwork machine made by English masters of the XVIII century is still functioning – its "singing" can be heard every Wednesday, at 19 o'clock.



# The Old (Big) Hermitage

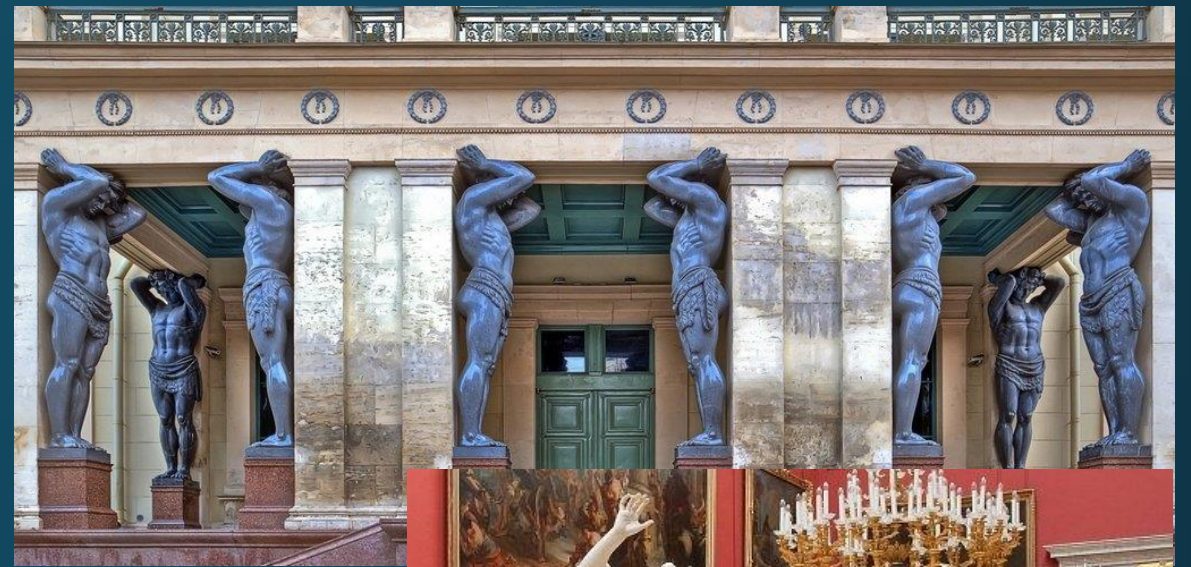
Masterpieces of the Italian Renaissance are kept here: frescoes by Fra Beato Angelico, reliefs by Antonio Rossellino, an altar by Sandro Botticelli, "Saint Sebastian" by Pietro Perugino, "Mourning for Christ" by Veronese, "Saint George" by Tintoretto. The Leonardo da Vinci Hall reproduces the French interiors of the XVII century. The famous Leonardo's "Madonna Benoit" and "Madonna Litta" are exhibited here. In the hall of Titian you can see "Danae" and "Saint Sebastian".





# The New Hermitage

Since there was no suitable place left on the Neva River embankment, the main facade of the New Hermitage faces Millionnaya Street. It is decorated with the famous powerful granite figures of Atlanteans by the sculptor Terebenev.



On the ground floor there are marble sculptures. Italian ceramics are presented in the Raphael Hall

Quests are held for children in the Hermitage, an art studio, clubs and circles work, the topics of which are built taking into account the school curriculum. Thematic excursions are organized for adults, virtual educational excursions are organized for students and high school students.





# ИСТОЧНИКИ:

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