

Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is the most eastern town of Russia, the administrative center of Kamchatsky Krai, and an important port of the Pacific Ocean.

Geographic coordinates
 Latitude 53°01' North
 Longitude 158°39' East
 Distance to Moscow - 11900 km
 Local time – Moscow time + 8 hours.
 Population – 182 thousands (2013).



Geographic position

Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is in the south-eastern part of Kamchatka Peninsula, on the Avachinskaya Bay coasts of the Pacific Ocean. The Bay cuts deep into the land for 23.5 km and is connected with the ocean by a narrow strait 2.7 km wide.

At 25-30 km north of the Town a ridge of volcanoes rises: Aag (2330 m), Arik (2500 m), Koryaksky (3456 m), Avachinsky (2751 m), and Kozel'sky (2170 m). Avachinsky and Koryaksky Volcanoes are active; their last eruptions were in 1991 and 2008-2009, correspondingly.



Climate

The Town climate is much severer than that on the same latitudes in Europe and colder than in the European part of Russia.

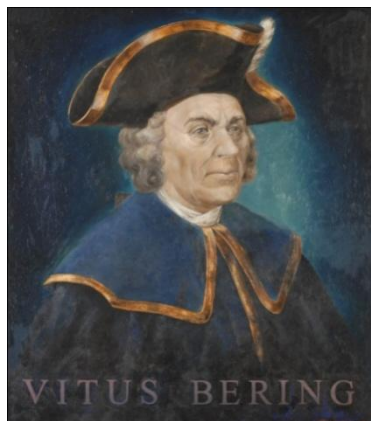
Winter competes in mildness with that in Moscow and S. Petersburg. Thanks to the Pacific Ocean influence there are no hard frosts here and temperatures below -15°C to -19°C are observed not often.

Average summer temperatures in Petropavlovsk, however, are not much higher than those in Murmansk and Magadan. In summer the Kuril-Kamchatka current (Oyasio), running not far from the eastern coast of Kamchatka, has a cooling effect on the climate of Petropavlovsk. In June and the first half of July cold mists and drizzling rains often take place. Average daily air temperature in June, July, August, and September reaches 10.3°C , 13.1°C , 14.3°C , and 10.9°C , correspondingly.

History

The place for the Town was chosen by navigator I.F. Elagin who arrived at the coast of the Avachinskaya Bay on June 21 (new style) in 1740 on the “Saint Archangel Gabriel” boat to prepare the base for the 2-nd Kamchatskaya expedition of Vitus Bering.

V. Bering’s expedition arrived at Kamchatka from Okhotsk on packet-boats “Saint Peter” and “Saint Pavel” on October 17 (new style) and settled for winter stay.



V. Bering named the Town in honor of his ships: “The above-named Bay for the stay of sea ships in winter is rather suitable, so we arrived at this Bay safely on two packet-boats with the whole team on the 6 of October in 1740, where spent the winter. And we named the Bay in honor of apostles Peter and Pavel”.

October 17, 1740, (new style) is considered the date of the Town foundation.

For a period of its history the Town changed its name three times: from 1740 to 1822 it was settlement Petropavlovskaya Harbor, from 1822 to 1924 – Town Petropavlovsky Port, and since 1924 – Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.

The Town history is closely connected with the history of the Russian Navy, with the epoch of voyages round the world ended in the middle of the XIX century. Petropavlovskaya Harbor (Petropavlovsky Port) was the place, across which the ways of the development and study of the North Pacific passed and Russians went to the coasts of North America and Japan.

Petropavlovsk history is closely connected with the names of the famous navigators, scientists, travelers – representatives of many countries of the world who visited the Town in different time and described it. Even a brief enumeration of these names commands a profound respect to the land that received the galaxy of the outstanding historical persons: Vitus Bering, Alexei Chirikov, George Steller, Charles Clark, Zh. Clerk, Otto Kotsebu, Frederick Bichi, Gustav Block, Zh. La Perouse, Nikolai Rezanov, Adalbert Shamisso, Ferdinand Vrangeli, Fedor Litke, Mikhail Lazarev, Gabriel Sarychev, Josef Billings, Ivan Kruzenshtern, Yuriy Lisyansky, Grigoriy Langsdorf, Ivan Voznesensky, Vasilii Golovnin, Emiliy Lents, Ivan Eshsholts, Alexander Postels, and many, many others.

One of the striking page of the Town biography is its defense against the attack of the English-French squadron in August of 1854 during the Crimean War (1853-1856). Thanks to the courage of defenders Petropavlovsky Port became famous all over the

world. In its honor warships came to bear the name “Petropavlovsk”. Several monuments were set up to the heroes of the defense of the Town.

On the 3-d of November, 2011, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky was awarded with the honorary title “Town of Military Glory” for the courage, fortitude, and mass heroism shown by the defenders of the Town in the fight for the freedom and independence of the Motherland.

Sights

Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is put on the list of the historical populated places of the Russian Federation for its architectural monuments, town-planning ensembles being the memorials of the national culture, natural landscapes, and the ancient cultured soil layer representing the archeological and historical value.

Monuments of the Federal Importance

The Town history is immortalized in the monuments, seven of which are the monuments of the Federal importance: monuments to V. Bering, Ch. Clark, Zh. La Perouse, “Glory”, to A.P. Maksutov’s battery, Chapel and common grave of the defenders fallen through defense of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky against the English-French landing during the Crimean War in 1853-1855. The seventh monument is dated to the history of the XX century – the monument to the liberators of the Kuril Islands in 1945.

The monument to navigator Vitus Yonassen Bering was built on the donations of sea officers. It was raised approximately in summer of 1826.

Monument to French navigator Zhack Fransua La Perouse. The first variant of the monument, a wooden column with a sphere and a cross above, was raised in 1843 at the isthmus between Nikol’skaya Hill and Signal’nyi Cape. On its place in 1882 the scientist and doctor B.I. Dybovsky put a stone basement and a wooden cross with inscription: “In memory of Laperuz. 1787”. In ten years the team of cruiser “Zabiyaka” put on this basement a stone boulder twined by a chain with an anchor. In 1935 the monument was carried to Leninskaya Street.

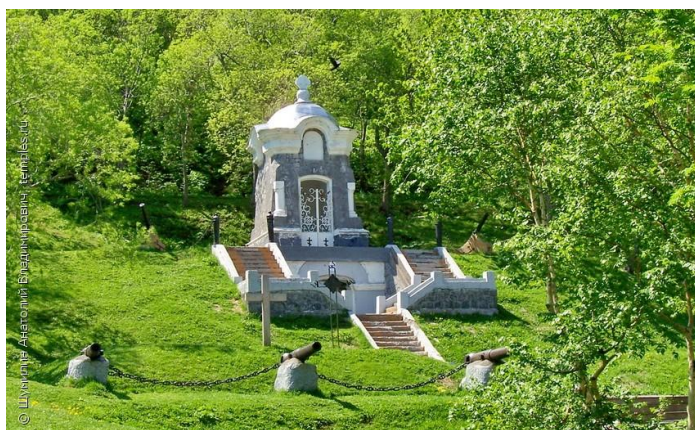


© А. П. Пирагис, 2007
www.piragis.ru



Monument “Glory” to the heroes of defense of Petropavlovsk from the attack of the English-French squadron in August of 1854 was raised on August 24, 1882.

Monument “Chapel”, a small cemetery with a chapel, is a sacred place in Petropavlovsk. At the right side of the Chapel 35 Russian defenders of the Petropavlovsky Port are buried in 1854, and at the left side – 38 French and English sailors of the English-French squadron. The monument was raised in 1912.



The monument to the heroes of the 3-d “internecine” battery of Lieutenant Alexander Petrovich Maksutov, built in honor of successful defense of the Petropavlovsky Port from the attack of the English-French squadron in 1854. It was raised in 1854.

The monument on the Clark. It was raised in 1913 English Board of Great monument façade: “To the Royal Fleet Charles Clark at the age of 38 and whose Inscription on the performed several of new lands under the world-wide famous Cook’s remains after the Clark died in the sea after the way through the ices Bering”.



grave of navigator Charles by the representatives of the Britain. Inscription on the memory of the captain of the who died on August 22, 1779, body lies under this stone”. northern side: “This officer voyages, devoted to discovery command of captain Cook, a navigator, and he supplied captain was killed by savages. a courageous attempt to force lying before the Strait of

The monument to the fighting men fallen during the Kuril landing operation in August of 1945. It was raised in August of 1946.

Memorials of regional Importance: former house of a governor of Kamchatka (Leninskaya Street, 22); house of merchant Podprugin (Krasintsev Street, 4); wooden public houses of the early XX century on the streets of Krasintsev, Krasnoarmeiskaya, Leninskaya; motor torpedo-boat – the monument to the Pacific seamen; tank T-34 raised on May 7, 1975, in honor of Kamchatka people who collected the means to build a tank column “Kamchatsky Fisherman” in the years of the Great Patriotic War; and others.

Motor torpedo-boat – the monument to the heroic Pacific seamen fought in the Great Patriotic War in 1941-1945. It was raised on May 8, 1975.



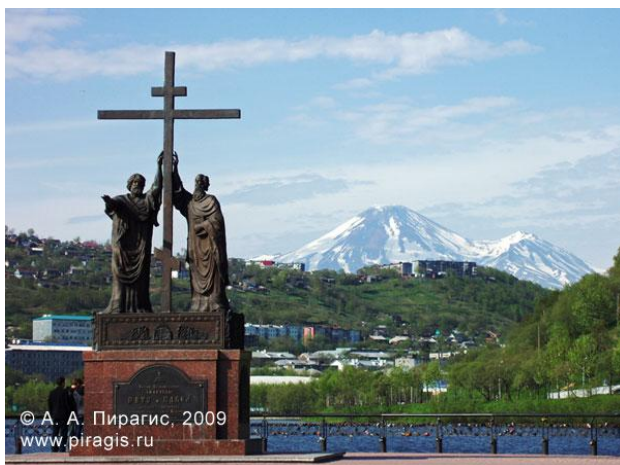
Other monuments and memorials



Steles with models of packet-boats “Saint apostle Peter” and “Saint apostle Pavel” at the entrance to the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky.



Model of the 3-d battery of A.P. Maksutov on Nikol'sky Hill, raised in 1959.



Monument to Saint apostles Peter and Pavel, raised in 2005.



Monument to Consecrator Nikolai Archbishop Mirlikiisky Wonder-worker, raised in 2008.

Museums and theatres

One of the main cultural sights of the Town are its museums: Kamchatsky regional united Museum, Kamchatsky regional Museum of Art, Military-Historic Museum, Museum of the Institute of Volcanology and Seismology of FEB of RAS, Museum of Salmon, and others. In Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, guests and town-dwellers can visit the Kamchatsky Theater of Drama and Comedy, Puppet-show Theatre, Philharmonic Society, Choral Singing, Kamchatsky Chamber Orchestra, and numerous exhibitions.

Kamchatsky regional united Museum. It is a historic-regional Museum whose collection and exhibits are devoted to the discovery of Kamchatka by Russian investigators, to heroic history of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, to unique nature of the region, and to native peoples of Kamchatka and their ancient culture.

Address: 683000, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Leninskaya Street, 20.

Work hours: from 10:00 to 20:00 (break from 13:00 to 14:00), day-off – Monday and Tuesday.



Museum of the Institute of Volcanology and Seismology of FEB of RAS. The scientific museum was established in 1963. It is the only in Russia specialized museum that disposes a systematic collection of most of the known today volcanic and post-volcanic types of rocks and minerals. The Museum has regional and thematic collections representing the products of recent volcanic and post-volcanic activity of most of volcanoes of Kamchatka, Kuril Islands, and some volcanoes of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Mediterranean regions.

Address: Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Piip Avenue, 9.

One may visit the Museum only at the specially set time.



Orthodox Temples and Cloisters

Orthodox Temples and Cloisters are the inalienable part of the Town appearance.

Cathedral in the name of Saint Life-giving Trinity. It was sanctified in September, 2010.



Temple of Saint Blessed Prince Alexander Nevsky. It was built on its historic place in 2007.

Natural sights

Natural beauties of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky are the Avachinskaya Bay, Petrovsky Hill, Mishennyi Hill with fantastic views from its top of three “domestic” volcanoes – Avachinsky, Koryaksky, and Kozel’sky, of the Bay, and Vilyuchinsky volcano.



References:

- A.P. Piragis.* Kamchatka. Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. – <http://www.piragis.ru/>.
I.V. Viter. Memorials of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. – <http://www.kamlib.ru/resourses/pamytniki.htm>.
 Town of Russia. – <http://город-россии.рф/petropavlovsk-kamchatskiy>.
 Wikipedia – <http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Петропавловск-Камчатский>.
 Museum of the IVS, FEB of RAS. – <http://www.kscnet.ru/ivs/slsecret/muzei/muzej.htm>.