

SCARLET SAILS IN SAINT-PETERSBURG

This famous St. Petersburg white night is expected not only by Russian graduates, who come to the Northern capital from all over the country, - 20 states of the European Union have included it in the list of holidays that are recommended to visit. Of course, not all foreigners read Alexander Grin's book, but when a ship with scarlet sails enters the Neva and slowly to the music, runs along the embankments, and fireworks around it, this is breathtaking.

This is perhaps the most romantic and one of the most beautiful holidays in the world - the famous St. Petersburg "Scarlet Sails".

History

It is officially considered that the "Scarlet Sails" were born half a century ago, when the City Department of National Education decided to come up with a holiday for graduates of Leningrad schools.

Its organization has been entrusted to the Leningrad Pioneers Palace.

27 June 1968, one hour before midnight, in the water area of Neva between Kirov and Palace Bridges to the sounds of "Anthem to the Great City" commemorative action began. Unsurprisingly for that time, it was fully followed the Soviet spirit. In boats, which came out from under the bridge in the parade, were presented live pictures: workers, farmers, young scientists...

Young men, standing on the bank in a row, lit torches and began to pass flame to the Rostral columns - and soon a flame flared over them. And then the ship with scarlet sails entered the Neva - the role of the Grin "Secret" was performed by the schooner "Leningrad" ("Nadezhda") that year. The celebration, which gathered 23 thousand graduates, lasted until 5 am.

However, there is another version: in fact, the first celebration was held 10 years before, in 1958 – hosted by a student of the Institute of Culture Larisa Kuprina and a cadet of Admiral S. O. Makarov LHEMA ("Makarovka") Yuri Kozlov. They are the ones who came up with its name. The main action of "Scarlet Sails" took place in the Lenin's Komsomol Theater - and only then all moved to the embankment.

The celebration was held a couple more times, and then it was forgotten until 1968.

Anyway, but then, 50 years ago, "Scarlet Sails" instantly became popular and since then took place regularly - until 1979, before the head of the Leningrad regional committee of the CPSU Grigory Romanov closed them.

They were revived only after 26 years, in 2005.

Traditions

Every year "Scarlet Sails" offer admiring spectators some beautiful novelty, but their main outline of the holiday remains unchanged. It all starts with theatrical action and concert, and ends with a passage of the ship with scarlet sails on the Neva and fireworks - and every time it is accompanied by solemn sound of overture to the ballet "The Bronze Horseman" by Reinhold Gliere. And the overture of Isaak Dunaevsky to the film "Children of Captain Grant", which 50 years ago sounded on the very first "Scarlet Sails", became an anthem and a musical symbol of the holiday.

Every St. Petersburg night of graduates gets a new motto. For example, in 2017 it sounded like this: "The future begins today", and in 2018 - "Together with Russia".

Water show between the Trinity and the Palace bridges traditionally can be seen not only by graduates, but also by all the guests of the Northern Capital: a good view is opened both from Vasilyevsky Island, and from the Peter and Paul fortress.

The role of the Grin "Secret" in different years was fulfilled by 5 ships: schooners "Nadezhda", "Condor" and "Yunyi Baltiets", the frigates "Shtandart" and "Mir", but for 8 consecutive years "dream ship" becomes the Swedish brig "Tre Kronor" (Tre Kronor of Stockholm). It was selected by organizers of the holiday after the victory of large sailing ships in the European Regatta. Sometimes this ship is called the "sailing ship of the world", because volunteers from different countries funded the construction of it.

And, of course, all these years the admiration that this unique spectacle earns not only in our country but also abroad remains unchanged.

Thus, in 2015 The Telegraph placed the St. Petersburg holiday on the third place after the Oktoberfest and the Brazilian carnival in the list of the most visited tourist events of the world. And in 2016 "Scarlet Sails" were among the finalists of the only European Award of event marketing - European Best Event Awards - in five categories: "The best cultural event", "The best social project", "The best solemn event", "The best city event" and "The best client-oriented event", in one of which ("The best city event") they won, and in one ("The best cultural event") took second place.

Scarlet Sails 2018

This year the holiday, which took place on the night of 23 to 24 June, was special: after all, it was attended not only by about 80 thousand graduates from 33 regions of Russia and 6 countries (Armenia, Moldova, Estonia, Kyrgyz, Serbia and Cyprus), but also fans who came to St. Petersburg for the Football World Cup games.

Some of the football fans were so impressed that even forgot about the defeats of their national teams for a while. Here are just a few reviews that they shared with the Russian mass media.

Claudio, the Argentinean: "A terrific show! We came to watch football, and we were lucky to see also this fantastic spectacle. White nights, 30 minutes of fireworks, beauty! "

Julian, the Columbian: "Being here is a great happiness. It's fine! Ship, salute and a concert ... I have not seen anything like this before! "

Carlos, the Mexican: "It's not so big in Mexico. And here are a lot of people, beautiful show. Everybody is very friendly. I wish all the best to the graduates! "

Many foreign fans called the action that took place that night, "insane beauty" and said that it was worth to come to St. Petersburg for this only.

However, the audience of "Scarlet Sails" was not limited only to the graduates and fans: about 2 million people observed the magical action from the embankments, and live television broadcast of the celebration, which was provided by Channel 5, was seen by several tens of millions of viewers.

Box 1

The St. Petersburg holiday for graduates "Scarlet Sails" is known far beyond Russia: 20 states of the European Union have included it in the list of holidays that are recommended to visit.

Box 2

"Scarlet Sails of 2018" were special: after all, they were attended not only by about 80 thousand graduates from 33 regions of Russia and 6 foreign countries, but also fans who came to St. Petersburg for the Football World Cup games.