

Discover all the amazing highlights of Russia. Your seven day tour starts in magnificent Moscow where you'll visit the Red Square, the famous GUM department store and the Kremlin. From here you travel to the grand city of St Petersburg. Your tour includes many of the city's grand boulevards, a visit to the incredible Peter and Paul Fortress and a morning in the famous Hermitage Museum which boasts a priceless collection of more than 3 million pieces of art.



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## Itinerary

### **Day 1 Arrive in Moscow**

Welcome to Moscow, the capital of Russia as well as the political, scientific, historical, architectural and business hub of the country. Upon arrival into Moscow you are met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

### **Day 2 Moscow**

This morning you visit the most famous city square in Moscow, Red Square. The square separates the Kremlin from a historic merchant quarter, known as Kitay-gorod. During the middle ages the Square was used for huge public events, from coronations of Russia's Czars, to enemies' attacks. As major streets of Moscow radiate from the square in all directions, being promoted to major highways outside the city, Red Square is often considered the central square of Moscow and of all Russia. The Red Square first appeared in the late XV century, its name meaning "beautiful" in Russian. Next view St. Basil Cathedral, (exterior only) unusual in that the architects designed eight small onion-domed chapels around the main dome and made paths from one chapel to another. Every chapel is dedicated to a saint. Next visit the impressive GUM department store and Moscow University before enjoying lunch in a local restaurant. This afternoon visit the Metro and Arbat, a 1km street dating from the 15th century, thus laying claim to being one of the oldest surviving streets of the Russian capital. [B,L]

### **Day 3 Moscow**

Your day begins with a visit to The Moscow Kremlin, the symbol of Moscow and of entire Russia. This stronghold is the historical, spiritual and political heart of Moscow and the city's most famous landmark and tourist attraction. It's an intriguing ensemble of buildings with an architectural variety that reveals a long and fascinating history. Today the Kremlin is the official residence of the Russian President and thus approximately two-thirds of the Kremlin is off-limits to visitors. However, on your tour you will still be able to visit the Assumption Cathedral, the major Russian Orthodox church, the Archangel Cathedral with the tombs of great Moscow princes and tsars, the Annunciation Cathedral, formerly the domestic church of the tsars, the Church of the Deposition of the Virgin's Robe, the Bell Tower of Ivan the Great, the highest structure inside the Kremlin, the Faceted Chamber and the Patriarch's Palace in the Cathedral Square. You are also able to visit the unique and priceless collection of jewellery as well as the Armoury Museum (both optional). After enjoying lunch in town the remainder of the day is at leisure. [B,L]

### **Day 4 Moscow - St Petersburg**

The morning is at leisure before boarding the fast train to St Petersburg. Located north of Moscow, St Petersburg is said to be one of the worlds most beautiful cities home to lavish architecture, wild nightlife, an extraordinary history, rich culture and of course, the world's largest art museum, the Hermitage. Upon arrival you are met and transferred to your hotel. [B]

### **Day 5 St Petersburg**

A morning tour of St Petersburg which, with its many canals, is known as the Venice of the North. Your tour includes the city's grand boulevards and a visit to the imposing Peter and Paul Fortress. Peter the Great had the construction of his new capital started with this fortress on 27 May, 1703, and this day is now considered the birthday of St Petersburg. Inside you'll find the beautiful cathedral where Russia's Tsars are entombed. The gilded spire of St. Peter and St. Paul Cathedral topped by a figure of an angel is visible from afar and serves as a symbolic "reference point", no building constructed in the historic centre of the city may be higher than the Cathedral. After lunch you can enjoy an afternoon at leisure for exploring on your own. [B,L]

### **Day 6 St Petersburg**

This morning visit the famous Hermitage Museum which boasts a priceless collection of more than 3 million pieces of art, including paintings, sculptures and ornate antique furniture. The Hermitage Museum is Russia's best gallery of world art, one of the most prominent art museums in the world and definitely the main tourist attraction of St. Petersburg. The principal building of the Hermitage Museum is the Winter Palace, the residence of the Russian Czars. Magnificently located on the bank of the Neva River, this green-and-white three-storey palace is a marvel of Baroque architecture. The museum was founded in 1764 when Catherine the Great purchased a collection of 255 paintings from the German city of Berlin. The Hermitage's collections include works by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael and Titian, a unique collection of Rembrandts and Rubens, many French Impressionist works by Renoir, Cezanne, Manet, Monet and Pissarro, numerous canvasses by Van Gogh, Matisse, Gauguin and sculptures by Rodin. The collection is both enormous and diverse and is an essential stop for all those interested in art and history. The afternoon is at leisure. [B,L]

### **Day 7 Depart St Petersburg**

Today marks the end of your tour as you are met and transferred to the airport for your onward flight. [B]

## Inclusions

- 6 nights' accommodation with private facilities (4 star)
- Day train between Moscow and St Petersburg in economy class
- 6 breakfasts and 4 lunches
- All airport and train station transfers in Moscow and St Petersburg
- All sightseeing as per itinerary with English-speaking guides

## Dates & Prices

Start Date	End Date	Season	Cost	Total Cost	Status
15/05/2012	15/07/2012	High	\$1,660	\$1,660	On Request
16/07/2012	14/10/2012	Shoulder	\$1,560	\$1,560	On Request
15/10/2012	31/12/2012	Low	\$1,480	\$1,480	On Request

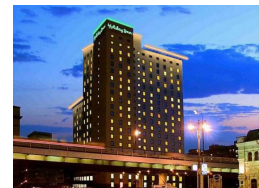
Prices are per person based on twin-share & are based on a minimum of 2 people.

Prices are a guide only and week day surcharges may apply depending on travel dates, please contact our office for more information.

## Accommodation

### **Holiday Inn Moscow-Sushevsky**

The Holiday Inn Moscow-Sushevsky Hotel offers spacious modern rooms designed to ensure the utmost in comfort. Guests may also enjoy the friendly atmosphere at the "Fleur Cafe" Lounge bar. 24 hour room service is also available. The hotel also has an onsite Health and Fitness centre open 24 hours a day, dry cleaning/laundry services, and foreign currency exchange.



### **Hotel Ibis, St. Petersburg**

The Ibis hotel in St. Petersburg is a 3 star hotel that offers 221 comfortable rooms. Located in the centre of St Petersburg, it is close to Nevsky Prospekt (the main shopping avenue of the city) and only 500 metres from Moscow railway station. The hotel also features the Sud et Cie restaurant with a capacity of 120 seats, a bar with space for 50 guests, 4 conference rooms and an enclosed undercover parking offering 19 car spaces.



## Weather

The most popular times for travel to Russia are during the summer months of June, July and August when the temperatures are warmer. Although late spring and early autumn are also nice times to visit when the climate is also very comfortable.

<b>Moscow</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Ave Max C</b>	-5	-4	2	11	18	22	24	22	15	8	0	-4
<b>Ave Min C</b>	-8	-9	-5	2	8	12	14	12	8	3	-3	-8
<b>Rainy Days</b>	2	2	3	5	7	7	7	7	6	9	7	2
<b>St. Petersburg</b>	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Ave Max C</b>	-7	-5	0	8	15	20	21	20	15	9	2	-3
<b>Ave Min C</b>	-13	-12	-8	0	6	11	13	13	9	4	-2	-8
<b>Rainy Days</b>	21	17	14	12	13	12	13	14	17	18	18	22

## Disclaimer

Prices shown are per person based on twin-share. Prices and itineraries are correct at time of downloading from the website but are subject to change. Taxes and fuel surcharges change regularly so levies shown as a guide only. For full terms and conditions please visit our website or call 1300 664 170 for details.