



"Treasures of Two Capitals"

Blake

Moscow and St Petersburg Tour

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Dates: June 10-15, 2009

Price: \$1,950 per person

Price includes:

- Professional guide and private driver;
- Russian visas and first class train tickets;
- Airport transfers and entrance fees;
- Accommodation in Moscow and St Petersburg:
Moscow: "Kosmos Hotel" - 3 stars, standard room
St Petersburg: "Hertzen Hotel" - 3 stars, standard room



Day 1 - Moscow

The tour starts in Moscow. Your driver will be waiting for you in the airport. Upon picking you up, he will take you to the hotel, located in the city center. This evening will be reserved for you to get some rest as you have an eventful week ahead, but if you want, you can explore the area around the hotel on your own.



Day 2 - Moscow

The tour starts after breakfast. This is our first full day in Moscow and it will be the most of it. The tour will last for about 8 hours.

We will visit the Red Square and swing by Vorob'evy, Hills Park (World War II Memorial), check out beautiful Cathedrals of Christ the Savior and go inside the Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral.

Question? Ready to book?

Tel: 1-800-884-1721 (US), 0800-242-5155 (UK)

Tour inside of Kremlin

The Kremlin of Moscow is perhaps the most recognizable symbols of Russia and one of the world's most incredible sights. This ancient citadel that was constructed in 1147 to defend the city from the invaders such as the Mongols. Moscow has grown much since those days and overtime, but the Kremlin has always remained a symbol of Russian state. Today, it is a gigantic museum of Russian history and the place, where Russian government holds its most important ceremonies, including the inauguration of president and meetings with foreign leaders.



Day 3 - Moscow

This is our second day in Moscow. Today, we will descend underground to explore Moscow's famous Subway and then visit the best art gallery in the city - The Tretyakov Picture Gallery.

Moscow Subway

Moscow Subway was constructed by the Soviets not just to streamline the city's transportation, but also to celebrate the accomplishments of the Soviet system. The subway is works of art, socialist realist art for the most part. Each station of Moscow Subway is unique and is dedicated to a certain historic event of a great Russian artist. On top of its cultural value, Moscow's subway is a super efficient transportation system carrying 7 million passengers each day and spanning the entire city. It is also located deep under the ground and can play a role of a nuclear shelter.

Tretyakov Gallery

Tretyakov Picture Gallery is Moscow's most famous collection of art and one of the world's top art galleries. The gallery started as a private collection of wealthy Moscow merchant Tretyakov, who lived in 19th century and donated his collection to the city.

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Day 4 – St. Petersburg

You will arrive to St. Petersburg in the morning. After checking in the hotel, we will go on a panoramic tour of the city visiting Peter and Paul Fortress, Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood and St Isaak's Cathedral. The tour will last for four hours and in the afternoon you will have some time to relax or to explore the city center yourself.

Peter and Paul Fortress

Peter and Paul Fortress has served many roles except for the one that it was designed for - to defend the city from the sea. It was a political prison for the dissidents of the tsarist regime. During the soviet era it was transformed into a museum and since the collapse of the USSR it became the tomb of the Russian emperors.

St Isaac's Cathedral

St Isaac's Cathedral is one of the most impressive cathedrals in Europe. Its gigantic golden cupolas, an excellent observation deck that overlooks the entire city, rich inside decorations and artifacts make this cathedral one of the most popular tourist sights in St Petersburg.

The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood

The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood was built to commemorate one of Russia's greatest emperors, Alexander II. The church was built on a spot, where the emperor had been murdered when radical dissident threw a bomb in his carriage. Alexander II is most famous for liberating Russian serfs (2 years before the abolition of slavery in the US in fact). On this tour, we won't go inside of the church, but if this is something you would like to do, you may visit it on your own as it is closed to your hotel.



Day 5 - St Petersburg

After breakfast, we will proceed to the very heart of the center of the city, to the Palace Square. We will spend five hour exploring the royal center of the city and go inside of the Winter Palace, to world renown Hermitage Museum.

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The Hermitage

St Petersburg has dozens of beautiful palaces, but the Winter Palace stands above them all. First of all, it is one of the best collections of art in the world. Secondly, this collection is located in the very building where Russian emperors lived. It is here that they rose to power and it is from these walls that they ruled 1/5 of the world's territories. It was also here that the Bolsheviks overthrew their reign. The Bolsheviks were tempted to destroy the palace, the symbol of tsars, but its artistic value was so immense that they transformed it into the museum.

They say, that if you were to spend three minutes by each of the exhibits in the Hermitage, it would take you three years to see them all! But don't worry, you will have an experienced private guide who will show you the best of the Hermitage in 4 hours. Once his tour ends, you can continue wondering around endless halls of this beautiful palace.

**Optional: tour of the Diamond Room a jewelry collection from 300 BC to present day (\$48 per person).*



Day 6 - St Petersburg

As our best guides in St Petersburg agree, there are five must-see sights in St. Petersburg: Peter and Paul Fortress, Church of Savior on Spilled Blood, St Isaak's Cathedral, The Hermitage and Peterhof. You have already seen the first four and today, you will go on a six hour tour of Peterhof.

Peterhof

Peterhof is a lavish royal residence on the outskirts of the city. It is most famous for its fountain park that rivals that of Versailles. Peterhof was the official summer residence of Russian tsars and is home to the Summer Palace.

**Optional: Peterhof is located on the outskirts of the city and it takes about one hour to get there by car. You can also reach it by boat, which is faster. Additional price: \$35 per person.*

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Day 7 - Tour Ends

This is a last day of your tour. Your driver will take you to the airport. You will be leaving home fascinated with Russia and her two beautiful capitals, Moscow and St Petersburg. And, we hope you will want to come back to this very special country some day again.

Question? Ready to book?

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