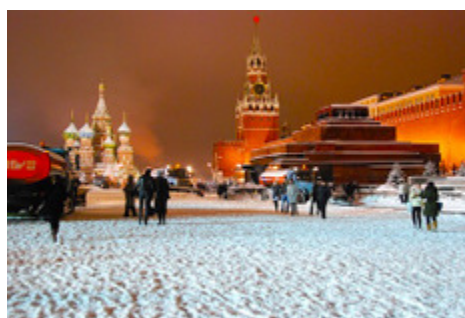




"Treasures of Two Capitals" The Winter Edition of the Most Popular Tour to Russia

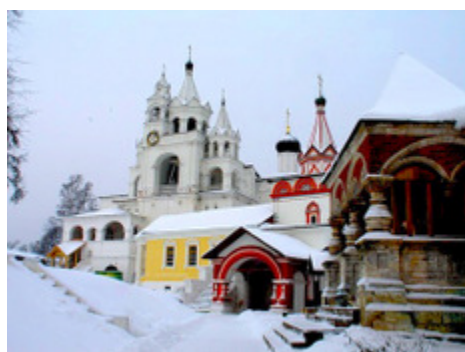
Price includes:

- Professional guide, vehicle with a private driver;
- Russian visas and first class train tickets from Moscow to St. Petersburg;
- Airport transfers and all entrance fees;
- 3 or 4 star accommodation in Moscow and St Petersburg.



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 is 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 we will make 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 (a World War II Memorial), check out beautiful Cathedrals of Christ the Savior and go inside the Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral.

Tour inside of Kremlin

The Kremlin of Moscow is perhaps the most recognizable symbol of Russia and one of the world's most incredible sights.

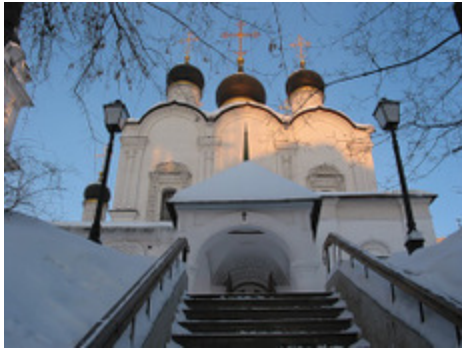
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This ancient citadel was constructed in 1147 to defend the city from invaders such as the Mongols. Moscow has grown much since those days, but the Kremlin has always remained a symbol of Russian state. Today, it is a gigantic museum of Russian history and the place where the Russian government holds its most important ceremonies, including the inaugurations of presidents 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 - Tretyakov Picture Gallery. This evening you will travel to St. Petersburg.

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 entire subway is a work of art, socialist realist art for the most part. Each station of the Moscow Subway is unique and is dedicated to a certain historic event or 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 the 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 the 19th century and donated his collection to the city.

Tonight, your driver will meet you at the hotel lobby and take you to the railway station for your overnight train to St. Petersburg.

PLEASE NOTE: LATE CHECKOUT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS PACKAGE PRICE. ASK YOUR TOUR MANAGER ABOUT LATE CHECK OUT RESERVATIONS.

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Day 4 – St. Petersburg

You will arrive to St. Petersburg in the morning. After checking in to 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 Isaac'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 naval attacks. It was a political prison for the dissidents of the tsarist regime. During the soviet era it was transformed into a museum. After 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 the 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 close 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 hours exploring the royal center of the city and go inside of the Winter Palace, to the world renowned Hermitage Museum.

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

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Russian emperors lived. It is here that they rose to power and it 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 the 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 - Catherine Palace and Russian Troika Ride

Catherine Palace is located on the outskirts of the city. The Palace was a gift by Peter the Great to his wife Catherine and is known for its legendary Amber Room that was looted during the World War II by Germans and later recovered by the American troops. The Amber Room was reconstructed in 2003. You will have lunch in "Podvorye" restaurant which is built to resemble ancient Russian houses. Delicious Russian food will be served with a folk singers. Superb Russian cuisine. In the afternoon we will visit Pavel's palace



Day 7 - Tour Ends

This is the 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 again some day.

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