

Two Capitals of Russia and Golden Ring.

10 days 9 nights.

DAY 1. St Petersburg

Upon arrival in St. Petersburg, meet and transfer to the hotel followed by orientation tour. Relax and prepare for a great escape in the beautiful Russia.



Begin with the **night sight-seeing bus tour** and enjoy the night city's panorama and the many beautiful bridges of the city. Never miss the open bridge view.



Overnight: St. Petersburg
Meals: No

DAY 2. St Petersburg



Breakfast at the hotel

This morning makes a full day excursion the world-famous "Russian Versailles" – **Peterhof**, which is the former summer residence of the Russian Court and was founded by Peter I. Peterhof's unique network of fountains known as a Great Cascade, consisting of 64 fountains and is also called the "capital of fountains".

Visit the centerpiece of the Peterhof, the Great Palace, which stands on a natural terrace facing the sea. Visit the interiors of the Palace, which halls are masterpieces of decorative and

applied art.

Stroll in the lovely gardens of Venus and Bacchus, which have French and English style sections. Walk to the pier and take scenic 30 minutes **hydrofoil** journey of the Neva River and Gulf of Finland back to the city.

Optional: Watch world renowned Mariinsky Ballet. Founded in the 18th century and originally known as the Imperial Russian Ballet and one of the world's leading ballet companies.

Overnight: St. Petersburg
Meals: Breakfast



DAY 3. St Petersburg

Breakfast at the hotel

Devote the morning to the world-famous **Hermitage** and to the 3 million Monuments of culture and art. It showcases masterpieces of Russian and European jewelry art and works by Fabergé. Hermitage with the 5 historical buildings compares with Louvre or British Museum, as a truly world-class museum. In here you can enjoy the artworks by Leonardo Da Vinci and the famous collection of impressionists and post- impressionists, Matisse and Picasso. (Tour takes 3 hours)



Enjoy a traditional Russian lunch in a Vodka Room

Restaurant with Vodka tasting. After which, you may wish to take a tour of the Vodka Museum.

Spend time at the Palace Square, the central city square of St. Petersburg and of the former Russian Empire. The iconic Alexander Column is located in the center and it witnessed many historical events.



In the afternoon, visit **Peter & Paul Fortress**, the best place to tell the history of the city. Then take a **private boat tour** along the canal, enjoy some champagne and canapés while seeing the city from a different perspective.

Optional: Folk Show at the beautiful 19th century Nikolaevsky Palace provides a brilliant opportunity to enjoy the cultural traditions of Russia

Overnight: St. Petersburg

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch – Vodka Rum restaurant

DAY 4. St Petersburg / Moscow

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit of the **Pushkin Palace and Park**. The magnificent summer residence of the **Russian Tsars, Pushkin town (Tsarskoye Selo)**, where you will find a jewel of Russian baroque **Catherine Palace**. Enjoy tour of the Palace with special entry to visit the Amber Room, which is considered to be one of the world's wonders. A pleasant walk through the park will let you feel like you're an important guest in the Residence of an Empress.



Enjoy your lunch at the Podvorie Restaurant, which is said to be the favorite restaurant of the Russian President Vladimir Putin.



Return to St. Petersburg and you have the afternoon at leisure for shopping and self- exploration before you are transferred to train station.

Train St. Petersburg/Moscow

Meet upon arrival and transfer to your hotel.

Overnight: Moscow

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch - Podvorie Restaurant

DAY 5. Moscow

Visit the **Kremlin** (closed on Thursdays) in the late morning, you will visit the **Armory Museum**. At noon time, visit **The Russian Diamond Fund**. It boasts unique collections of the Russian, Western European and Eastern applied arts spanning the period from the 5th to the 20th centuries.

End the tour with a walk-through Alexander Garden along the majestic walls of the Kremlin to Red Square. See the Lenin's Mausoleum and St Basil's Cathedral (from the inside), the wonderfully ornamented onion dome, which is the best-known building in Russia.



See the best examples of underground Soviet-era architecture on tour of **Moscow's metro stations!** Visit Moscow's must-see stations, including iconic Mayakovskaya, and learn all about Stalin's visions for the former Soviet Union. Hear about the Metro-2, a secret line said to have been used by the government and KGB, and see grandiose architecture, mosaics, sculptures and more



Then visit **The State Tretyakov Gallery**, showcasing more than 170,000 works by Russian artists from early religious paintings to modern art.

Optional: Watch the world-renowned Circus Nikulin! We can also arrange a unique visit of the backstage where you would meet the trapeze artists, tightrope walkers and performing animals in person!

Overnight: Moscow

Meals: Breakfast

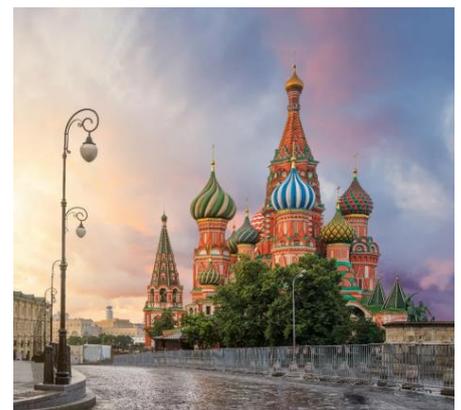
DAY 6. Moscow

Breakfast at the hotel

This morning embarks on a city tour by bus, which the **Red Square Walk**. Red Square is the central square of the capital of Russia. It is the symbol of the city, its heart. Its appearance reflects the entire history of Russia. The square is located at the eastern wall of the Kremlin and confined on all sides by **St Basils' Cathedral**, the building of the State Historical Museum, as well as the famous



gigantic GUM Building. Also, **Arbat Street** with shopping for souvenirs. You will continue to visit the lovely **Novodevichi Convent**, with its cluster



of sparkling dome and gorgeous turreted wall. It is the best-known cloister of Moscow. Its name, sometimes translated as the New Maidens' Monastery, was devised to differ from an ancient maidens' convent in the Moscow Kremlin. Unlike other Moscow monasteries, it has remained virtually intact

since the 17th century. In 2004, it was proclaimed a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Optional: Then head to the Izmailovo market (recommended to visit over the weekend), packed with art, handmade crafts, antiques, Soviet paraphernalia and Moscow's biggest original range of matryoshki,

palekh and khokhloma ware.

You will have your guide and driver available until the evening time, choose to continue your shopping spree or take a visit at the **Museum of Cosmos**, which gives a retrospect on how Soviet space science evolved starting from first man-made satellites subsequently followed by the first manned space flight, first space walks, Moon exploration programs, Solar system exploration programs and international space research programs.

Optional: Enjoy the evening watching the amazing ballet or opera performances at the one of the greatest theatres in the world, The Bolshoi Theatre.

Overnight: Moscow

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7. Moscow – Sergiev Posad – Suzdal



Breakfast at the hotel

Check out at the hotel and drive to Sergiyev Posad. Sergiyev Posad grew up in the 15th century around one of the greatest of Russian monasteries, the **Troitse-Sergiyeva** (Trinity) **Lavra** established by St. Sergius of Radonezh. It is located 90 kilometers from Moscow and sometimes called the "**Vatican**" of the **Russian Orthodox Church**.

Lunch – **Russky Dvorik**

Transfer to Suzdal.

Overnight in **Suzdal**. – **Nickolaevsky Posad or similar**

Meals: Breakfast / Lunch

DAY 8. Suzdal – Vladimir – Bogolubovo – Suzdal

Breakfast at the hotel

Sightseeing tour by Vladimir city. You will see the Cathedral of the Assumption is a world- famous architectural monument. **St. Demetrius Cathedral** is one of the most beautiful and original cathedrals of Ancient Russia. In **Bogolubovo** you will observe see **the Intercession Church** of 1165. **Suzdal is a museum-town** with more than 200 historical and architectural monuments. A museum of wooden architecture and peasant life has been created on the site of the former monastery of Our Savior and St. Euthimius.

Lunch in Vladimir.

Overnight in **Suzdal**.



DAY 9. Suzdal – Aleksandrov – Moscow



Breakfast at the hotel

Way to Aleksandrov – the temporary residence of **Ivan the Terrible**. Visit of the **Aleksandrov Kremlin**. It served as the capital of Russia for three months (from December 1564 to February 1565) under Tsar Ivan the Terrible until he agreed to return his court and the relics of Moscow which he had taken with him. Ivan agreed to return after the church gave him permission to find the Oprichnina.

Free & easy. Time for shopping before flight the next day.

Overnight: Moscow

DAY 10. Moscow

Breakfast at the hotel
Transfer to the airport

Transfer to airport. Fly

Optional extension and tours (exclude. transfer and guide)	Price per person
In St. Petersburg: Mariinsky Ballet	From \$115
In St. Petersburg: Folk Show (incl. snacks & Champaign)	\$50
In Moscow: Circus Nikulin	From \$25
In Moscow: Bolshoi Theatre performance	From \$195

COST INCLUDES:

- Accommodation on SINGLE / TWIN or DOUBLE share basis with daily breakfast;
- Sapsan Train Moscow – St. Petersburg economy class;
- All tours and transfers in private air-con vehicle with English speaking guide;
- All entrance for visits stated in the itinerary
- All meals stated (excluding beverages)

COST DOESN'T INCLUDE:

- Porterage
- Tips
- Anything that doesn't include in program