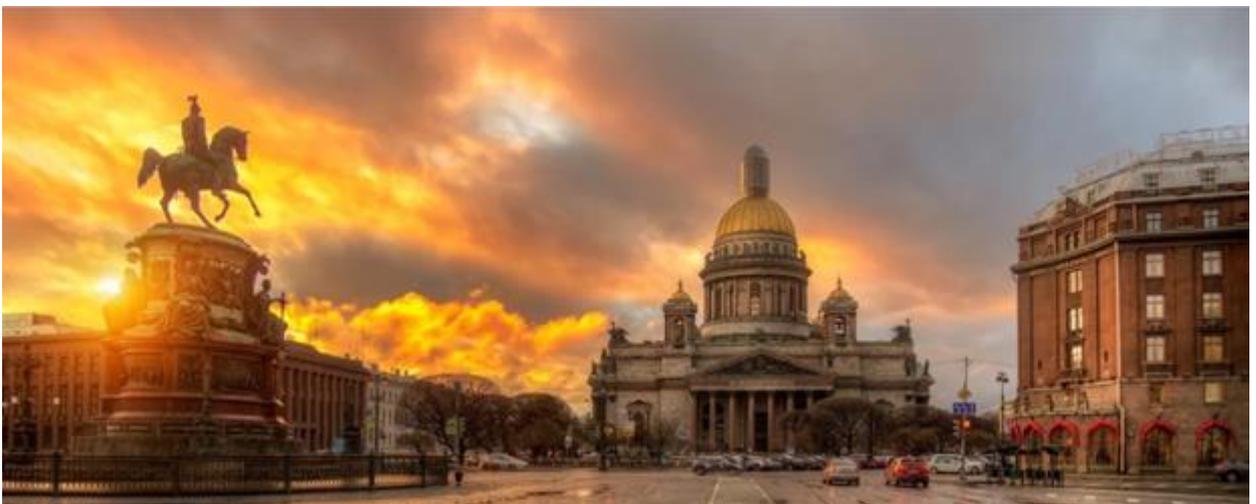


MOSCOW, CRIMEA AND SAINT- PETERSBURG



DAY 1. ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW

Arrival in Moscow. Meeting with the guide and the driver.

Transfer to the hotel and check in.

DAY 2. MOSCOW (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Explore the Russian capital during the **panoramic tour**. Visit Red Square, lined with some of the city's most iconic buildings. At one end stands St. Basil's Cathedral, famous for its colorful onion-shaped domes, opposite the Kremlin is Lenin's Mausoleum, while on the opposite side is the GUM department store, which offers a variety of products. glamorous. We will tour the main streets and explore the places of greatest interest in Moscow.

We visited the **Lenin mausoleum**.

Lunch in restaurant.



We visited **Zaryadye park**. Zaryadye Park is one of the new symbols of the city and has already gained international recognition. Located in the heart of Moscow, a stone's throw from the Kremlin, it reproduces the different landscapes of Russia. Its floating bridge has already become one of the main tourist attractions in the city. But the park is also home to exhibitions, concert halls and restored historic buildings. Zaryadye Park will surprise you a lot.

The house of Romanov boyars. This atypical museum, very close to the Red Square, which has remained practically the same despite its multiple restorations, shows the way of life of the Russian nobles, called boyars at the time, during the 16th and 17th centuries. The ground floor of the house, darker and more sober, was dedicated to the men of the family while the women were in the rooms on the second floor doing their daily chores. In fact, in one of the rooms there are two automated figures that, with each visitor, start to embroider. Over the years, the architect XX Richter finally remodeled this house-palace without leaving an iota of modernity, since he kept its beautiful interiors, the very colorful rooms with the family coats of arms drawn on the walls, as well as the furniture and family belongings. Here you will find an example of the civil architecture of the time with thick walls and low arched ceilings. You can also admire the kitchen oven from the 16th century or, in its patio, if the weather allows it, a tomb from a century later. Delve into the daily life of the ancient Russian nobility!

Back to the hotel.

DAY 3. SEPTEMBER 6. Tuesday. MOSCOW (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Visit to **the territory of the Kremlin and the cathedral**. The Moscow Kremlin is a stone chronicle of Russia. As in ancient times, today history is made here. The architectural ensemble of the Moscow Kremlin includes monuments from different centuries. Here you will see the palaces of Russian sovereigns, emperors, hierarchs of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as the residence of the President of Russia.

Visit to the **Armory**, the only one in Russia and one of the few preserved treasure museums in the world. It occupies a place of honor among such famous treasures as the Tower of London, the Green Arch in Dresden, the Armory in Stockholm.



Visit to **Saint Basil's Cathedral**. It is one of the architectural symbols of the Russian capital and a UNESCO World Heritage monument. The construction of the cathedral was ordered by Tsar Ivan the Terrible and was carried out between 1555 and 1561. Legend has it that Tsar Ivan blinded the architect Postnik Yakovlev to prevent him from designing a construction that could surpass it, although it seems clear that it is nothing more than a fable, since Yakovlev participated, after a few years, in the construction of the Kazan Kremlin. Today the Cathedral remains the most recognized symbol of the country.

We arrived at **Arbat street**. It is one of the oldest in Moscow. Its name is due to the word "arbad" or "rabad" which means "suburb". In the years 1974 - 1986 Arbat became a pedestrian street with many shops, cafes, shopping areas, restaurants, street vendors, etc. Today the Arbat Street retains its unique Moscow look of past centuries.

Free time on Arbat street, return to the hotel on your own

DAY 4. MOSCOW (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel.

We will visit **the Tretyakov Gallery**. The unusual passion of the Tretyakovs - collecting Russian art objects that were not interesting to anyone at the time - was at first of no interest

to anyone. However, by 1983 the situation had changed, and the collection of samples of Russian paintings and other works of art had become a matter of national importance. From now on, the Tretyakov Gallery is considered the main national treasure of works in the country.



Visit to “**Museon**” - a unique open-air sculpture museum. In the collection there are more than 1000 sculptures: monuments of the Soviet era and the period of social realism, works of national avant-garde and contemporary artists, as well as public art.

Lunch in restaurant.

L. Tolstoy's Khamovniki Memorial Estate. The best thing about this visit is being able to see real objects, such as the coat that Lev Tolstoy wears in many photos, being able to see his room, his office, his children's room and the room where he met with other personalities. of the culture of the time. All those who love works like War and Peace or Anna Karenina must stop by here.

Back to the hotel.

DAY 5. MOSCOW (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel.

We visited ancient city **Aleksandrov**. The first mention of the city is found in a 14th-century ukaz by Ivan I, where it is called Aleksándrovskaya slobodá. The city of Alexandrov was the capital of Russia for seventeen years, the residence of Ivan the Terrible. There are many things from that time: for example, the torture room, the room where Iven the Terrible slept, the dining rooms, among others.

lunch in restaurant



Sergiev Posad is located about 60 km from Moscow. In this small town, the most interesting monument is the Trinity and St. Sergius monastery, an architectural ensemble from the XV-XIX century that represents all the stages of Russian architecture. Besides, it is the spiritual center of the Orthodox religion, a monastery open to worship where more than 300 monks live who take care of the territory of the Monastery.

Back to the hotel.

DAY 6. MOSCOW (B/L) (by metro)

Breakfast at the hotel.



Experience the tour of the **Moscow metro**, also known as the Underground Palaces, which is considered one of the most beautiful metro systems in the world.

We will visit a very special place: the only underground bunker in the world, located at a depth of 65 meters underground, preserved and functioning as a museum to this day.



Bunker-42 is an outpost and pride of our Homeland, which has been on alert in the heart of the country for 30 years. Huge underground plazas and unusual architecture make it possible to take individual and group tours to one of the secret military facilities of the USSR. You and your friends will be able to visit: the Cold War museum, equipped conference rooms, banquet halls and exclusive places for interactive games, missions, presentations, exhibitions, corporate events, filming and concerts of any level and format. Lunch. Next we will visit the Cosmonautical Museum in VDNH.



Explore the Russian capital during the **City Tour of Moscow (at night)**. Visit the Red Square illuminated and very bright at night. You will get to know the history of the capital and you will be able to see the city from different angles. We will also visit Sparrow Hills, the largest observation deck in Moscow and see the magnificent building of the most important University of the city.
Back to the hotel.

DAY 7. MOSCOW – SIMFEROPOL (B/L)

Breakfast.



Visit to the **museum of military history** of Russia on the theme of the Great Patriotic War and the Second World War. The Museum is a unique memorial complex designed to commemorate the heroism and courage shown by Soviet soldiers during the Great Patriotic War.



We will continue the tour and see some of the Seven Sisters – **Stalin's Skyscrapers**. It is a set of seven skyscrapers built in an elaborate combination of Russian Baroque and Gothic styles.

Lunch.

At the agreed time transfer to Moscow airport to take your next flight to Simferopol.

Arrival in Simferopol. Meeting with the guide and the driver.

DAY 8. SEVASTOPOL (B/L)

Breakfast.

Visit to the **city Chersonesus** (ancient Greek colony) currently its ruins are among the most outstanding monuments of Sevastopol, the excavations uncovered ancient basilicas,

white marble columns, hundreds of meters of walls, Greek temples, houses with rainwater tanks and more.

Saint Vladimir's Cathedral, which was completed in 1892, is one of the most attractive places in Chersonesus.



We continue the visit with **the “Defense of Sevastopol” panorama** dedicated to the Crimean War, it is a masterpiece of battle painting and the monument commemorating the feat of the defenders of Sevastopol during the Crimean War. Time for lunch (Included). The Balaclava Fortifications Museum (the submarine museum) is one of the most attractive and extraordinary museum spaces on the Crimean peninsula, its construction was done in the early 2000s in a secret plant located underground in a rocky massif in the western shore of the Bay of Baclava, here they repaired and maintained the submarines of the Black Sea Fleet of the Soviet Navy.

Walk through the Balaclava Bay.

DAY 9. SEVASTOPOL (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to Backchysaray. We visit the **Khan's Palace**, it was built in the 16th century and became home to a succession of Crimean Khans. The walled enclosure includes a mosque, a harem, a cemetery, houses and gardens. The interior of the palace was decorated in the 16th century Tatar architectural and decorative style. The palace complex and minaret were built by Russian and Ukrainian slaves under the command of Ottoman, Persian and Italian architects. It was rebuilt, since many of its parts did not survive beyond the 18th century.

Lunch at local restaurant.



Visit to **the Dormition Monastery**, it is a cave monastery carved into the edge of the mountain. The date of the foundation of the monastery is in dispute, thus, the local monks claim that the monastery is

originating from the beginning of the 8th century, but which was abandoned when Byzantium lost control over the region. On the contrary, the current authorities of the monastery date its origin to the fifteenth century. In 1921 the monastery was closed by the Soviet government. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union and following the independence of Ukraine, the monastery was reopened to the public.

DAY 10. SEVASTOPOL -YALTA (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to Alupka and visit to **the Vorontsov Palace** in Alupka is an exceptional monument of the Romantic era that is distinguished by its beauty; stop to photograph the Swallow's Nest Castle in Yalta, it is an elegant Gothic castle, considered one of the most relevant monuments of architecture and history. Lunch at a local restaurant.



Visit to **the Livadia Palace** where the Yalta conference was held. Walk along the Yalta embankment.

DAY 11. YALTA (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Free time. Lunch. Excursion to Botaniko **Nikitskii Park**.



Visit to **the wine factory in Masandra** (with wine tasting); time for dinner, return to the hotel and accommodation.

DAY 12. SIMFEROPOL - SAINT PETERSBURG (B)

Breakfast. At the agreed time transfer to Simferopol airport to take your next flight. Arrival and accommodation.

DAY 13. SAINT PETERSBURG (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel.

During **the sightseeing tour of Saint Petersburg**, we will have the opportunity to get to know the historical center of the city in a short time, you will be able to see the most famous squares of the city: Saint Isaac's Square, Palace Square, Senate Square, etc. . We will pass through Nevsky Prospect and other central streets, admire the unique architectural ensembles and monuments (Palace Bridge, Hermitage, Kazan Cathedral, Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood), see the beautiful Neva with a view of Peter and Paul The Cathedral and the Peter and Paul Fortress, also the Vasilyevsky Island Strelka, the Bronze Horseman, Kunstkamera and much more.



Visit to **the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood**. The Church of the Resurrection of Christ was built on the spot where the Russian Emperor Alexander II was mortally wounded on March 1, 1881. In this same place by order of his son they erected the Church of "El Salvador on Spilled Blood". The temple was built in the period of 1883-1907 according to the project of Alfred Parland. San Salvador is built according to the models of the Moscow and Yaroslavl churches of the 17th century. The decoration of the cathedral impresses with the richness and diversity of elements. The total area of mosaics reaches 7000 square meters.

We visited Saint Isaac's Cathedral, it is the most sumptuous and grandiose in Saint Petersburg. The work of the French architect Auguste Montferrand who took 40 years to capture his majestic work in the heart of the city. The dome of the Cathedral is considered the fourth in Europe for its size. For 60 years, St. Isaac's Cathedral was considered the main cathedral in the country, in which more than twelve thousand people could enter at the same time.

Free time on Nevskii avenue, return to the hotel on your own
Lunch in restaurant.

Visit to **the Peter and Paul Fortress**. It is the historical and architectural center of St. Petersburg. It was the first construction of the city founded on May 27, 1703, which is considered the day of the founding of St. Petersburg. In the territory of the Fortress is the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, which became the Pantheon of the Romanov Family, in which in 1998, in a side chapel of the Cathedral, the remains of the last Russian Emperor Nicholas II and his family. Currently the Fortress and the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Saint Paul function as museums of the city's history. Back to the hotel.

DAY 14. SAINT PETERSBURG (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel.



Visit **the Hermitage Museum** (space entrance before the general public) which is located in the Winter Palace (and a few other buildings), the main residence of the Russian imperial family. Magnificently located on the banks of the Neva River, this Baroque-style palace is perhaps the biggest attraction in St. Petersburg. The 3-story green and white palace has 1,786 doors, 1,945 windows, and 1,057 halls and rooms, many of which are open to the public. The Winter Palace was built in 1754-62 for Empress Elisabeth, daughter of Peter the Great. When it was completed, Elisabeth was already dead, and only Catherine the Great and her successors could enjoy her new home. The Hermitage Museum was founded in 1764 when Catherine the Great purchased a collection of 255 paintings from Berlin. Today, the Hermitage Museum is the largest art gallery in Russia and one of the largest and most respected art museums in the world, with 2.7 million exhibits from ancient Egypt to early 20th-century Europe.

Lunch in restaurant.

Proceed for **the boat cruise on the rivers and canals**. It is one of the most beautiful tours that can be done in this city, from the boat you can see all the splendor of the "Venice of the North": you will see the palaces, domes of the cathedrals and churches, administrative buildings and houses of the nobility and the Burgess. All this creates a unique atmosphere and is one of the best tours to enjoy the beauty and harmony of St. Petersburg. Back to the hotel.

DAY 15. SAINT PETERSBURG (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel.



We will visit the **Faberge Museum**. The museum was created based on the world's largest collection of works from the House of Fabergé.

Lunch in restaurant.

We will visit the **Yusupov Palace**, get acquainted with the most significant ceremonial interiors of the Yusupov Palace, the Art Gallery, visit the architectural "pearl", the charming Home Theater, learn about the brilliant representatives of the famous aristocratic family of Russia, including the figure Rasputin's mystique, whose destiny is closely related to the history of the palace, and we can visit the basement where Rasputin was poisoned.

We visit **the Russian National Library**, derived from the former Imperial Library founded by Catherine the Great in 1795. It has thirty-five million documents, including 15 million books,1 which makes it the second most important in Russia... Back to the hotel.

DAY 16. SAINT PETERSBURG (B/L)

Breakfast.



We will go to Tsarskoye Selo (Pushkin) and visit the luxurious Catherine Palace in which the Amber Room is located. We will walk through Catalina Park, beautiful at any time of the year. We will enjoy the magnificent architecture created by the geniuses of Rastrelli, Cameron, Stasov.

Lunch in restaurant.



During the panoramic visit we will see architecture of the **Soviet** period, the monument to Lenin. Soviet modernism is a unique phenomenon of post-war architecture. Forgotten by everyone in 90 and only interested local historians in zero, now it is relevant again. In addition to the mass of faceless buildings, built from 1955 to 1991, it also includes excellent

author projects. Fragments of fascinating modernist architecture are scattered throughout the territory of the former USSR. The houses-glasses, the "tear of socialism", the three-tiered "odnushka" and the house-sausage. The experimental projects of Soviet architects may surprise, may outrage, but they definitely do not leave anyone indifferent. We talk about the most unusual Soviet buildings in St. Petersburg.

We will visit **Monument-Museum to the heroic defenders of Leningrad.**



DAY 17. SAINT PETERSBURG (B/L)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Visit to **the Tauride Palace**. It is considered to have been the largest residence of a nobleman in the 18th century in Russia. The Tauride Palace served as a model for countless manor houses scattered throughout the Russian Empire. In the 19th century, the palace was restored by Carlo Rossi and Vasili Stasov as a residence for the minor nobility. It was used for balls and exhibitions until 1906, when it became the seat of Russia's first parliament, the Russian State Duma.



Lunch in restaurant.

Visit **the Peterhof State Museum**, which is rightly called the "capital of fountains"! In addition to the fountains of the upper and lower parks with the famous "Samson", we will

visit the Grand Palace Peterhof. In the Lower Park, access to the Monplaisir Palace with an observation deck on the shores of the Gulf of Finland will be a particular treat.



DAY 18. SAINT PETERSBURG – INTERNATIONAL DEPARTURE (B)

At the agreed time, transfer to the St. Petersburg airport to take your next flight.

*****END OF OUR SERVICES*****