Russia Revolution 9 days

Offering more time in St Petersburg, get acquainted with the beautiful city of tsars before exploring historic Novgorod and cutting-edge Moscow – home of legendary Red Square and the mighty Kremlin - Russia's political powerhouse!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: St Petersburg / Ends in: Moscow
- Departs: Saturdays - March to December
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:8, Lunch: 0, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: 3 star
- Tour Guide: Yes

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

TOUR MAP:

QUICK WEB LINKS

Russia Prices ::: Russia - Why Us? ::: Russia Reviews ::: Our Russia Blog ::: Russia Top Spots ::: Best Time to Visit ::: Festivals & Events ::: Hotels in Russia ::: Russia Useful Info ::: FAQs on Russia ::: Russia Visas ::: Russia Gallery

Russia Revolution 9 days

Day 1: St Petersburg

Saturday. Welcome to Russia and the start of your holiday! Meet and greet arrival transfer from St Petersburg Pulkovo Airport to your hotel and check in. Tonight, our Welcome Meeting takes place. The remainder of the evening is free for you to do as you please. Your tour leader will recommend some local bars and restaurants for you to try out. Overnight - St Petersburg

Day 2: The Hermitage

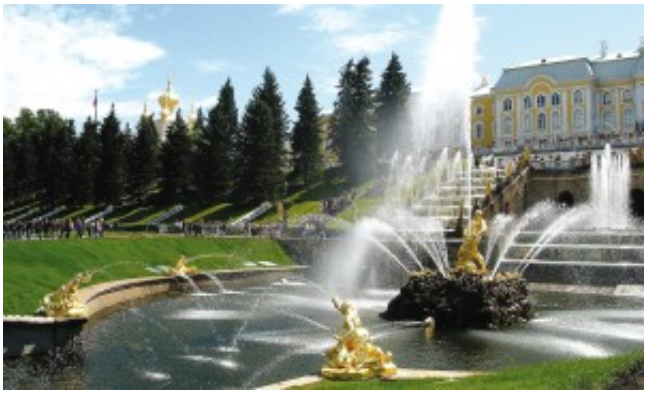
A city tour gives us a run-down of St Pete's key areas. We will drive along the famed Nevsky Prospekt, the museum and university districts and a stop will be made at the Church on Spilled Blood (viewed from outside from the Nevsky prospect side for photo opportunities), The Bronze Horseman and Peter and Paul Fortress. Peter and Paul Fortress was built on the orders of Peter the Great. At one time a gruesome prison, within the compound is SS Peter and Paul Cathedral - housing the tombs of the Romanov monarchs.

Later, we enjoy a guided visit at the Hermitage - which houses one of the biggest and best art collections on earth.

The rest of the day is free for you to further explore. Most of the city sights are dotted along and just off the main thoroughfare - Nevsky Prospekt. It's an easy city to find your bearings and get around. St Petersburg has a spirited restaurant, bar and jazz club scene, plus some of Russia's best beers. Alternatively watch an ever energetic Cossacks performance or enjoy a night at the ballet - the Russian ballet never fails to impress. Overnight - St Petersburg

Day 3: Optional Pukka Pass

A free day to explore on your own, alternatively fill your day with sightseeing by purchasing our pukka pass. Touring will include, dependent upon opening hours and availability, either a visit to the gardens of Peter the Great's palatial Peterhof which overlooks the Gulf of Finland (in summer) or a visit to Catherine Palace at Tsarskoe Selo in winter (or Pavlosk Palace if Catherine Palace is closed). We then stop for lunch overlooking the Griboyedov Canal where we can enjoy a hearty meal. After lunch we continue with a guided tour of the interior of The Church on Spilled Blood with time to shop in the souvenir market located alongside the church. Overnight - St Petersburg



Day 4: Time to Explore

St Petersburg – Novgorod. Today gives the opportunity to shop for souvenirs, maybe some wooden dolls or russian memorabilia found at the canal side market near the striking Church on Spilled Blood. Or take a walk along Nevsky Prospekt. Later we travel by coach or train to Novgorod where we enjoy a steamy Russian banya (sauna). Overnight - Novgorod

Day 5: Novgorod

Novgorod – Moscow. Novgorod is one of Russia's oldest cities, located within reach of the Volkhov River and Lake Ilmen. It was formed as a town in the middle of the 10th century. A tour of Novgorod takes in the riverside fortified kremlin, cathedral and other sights. The fortress was mentioned in chronicles as early as in 1044, whilst today's walls and towers, despite being re-built in 15th century, are impressive all the same. Tonight we have dinner before travelling by overnight sleeper train from Novgorod to Moscow. Overnight - Sleeper Train

Day 6: Moscow

Moscow. Early this morning, we arrive into Moscow - the capital that spawned dozens of spy novels! Today we will ride on the capital's efficient Metro to Red Square. From here, we'll take in the jewels of Russia's capital on a guided walk in the Kitay-Gorod and Lubyanka area, taking in sights such as the epitome of Russian power – the Kremlin (guided tour on day 8), Lenin's Mausoleum and the ritzy GUM department store.

At the south end of the square, feast your eyes on the wildly coloured, turban domed St Basil's Cathedral, an enduring Russian symbol commissioned by Ivan IV (also known as Ivan the terrible) in 1555. Overnight - Moscow

Day 7: Moscow - your way

A free day to explore Moscow. There are plenty of galleries, museums and shops to entertain. Perhaps hit one of the late night bars or nightclubs this evening; Moscow's nightlife can rival any of the world's capital cities! Overnight - Moscow

Day 8: Red Square

Today, we head into Red Square where, if open, we can pay our respects for free to Lenin, the grandfather of Communism, who has lain in state within his eerie mausoleum since his death in 1924. We continue inside the Kremlin - Russia's bastion of political might, where we enjoy a guided walk through the grounds, seeing numerous government buildings, gold-domed cathedrals and the tsar bell.

This afternoon we offer an optional guided tour of a formerly top secret Cold War bunker! Up until recently this Stalinist-era Soviet Bunker was a secret symbol of Soviet Power. Hidden beneath an ordinary two storey apartment building in Moscow, 18 floors below ground level, this 75,000-squarefoot facility was constructed covertly, in the 1950's, to protect against the threat of a US nuclear attack. In the 1990's with the Cold War thawing and the death of communism, this bunker came off the top secret list and is now open to the public! Enjoy an interactive tour of the bunker turned museum. Also included is a guided tour of some of the Stalinist era's most opulant metro stations.

Alternatively, explore Moscow your own way. Hop aboard the Metro and explore, or stop by the Izmailovsky flea market - a sprawling collection of stalls hocking everything from Soviet Red Army memorabilia to bootleg CDs, fluffy hats and Matryoshka dolls. Tonight an optional excursion to Moscow Circus. Overnight - Moscow

Day 9: Moscow

Sunday. Our tour ends after breakfast and hotel check out at 12 noon.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- **St Petersburg** - UNESCO-listed city area including: Nevsky Prospekt, Museum and University districts, Peter and Paul Fortress, Church on Spilled Blood, The Bronze Horseman, Admiralty End and the Hermitage at the Winter Palace
- Other sites of St. Petersburg included on the optional pukka pass
- **Novgorod** - ancient city by the Volkhov River - kremlin, cathedral and other sights
- **Moscow** - UNESCO-listed Red Square, Kremlin and Lenin's Mausoleum, St Basil's Cathedral

What's Included

- 8 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- 7 nights 3 star hotels
- 1 overnight train Novgorod - Moscow (open sleeper cabin) including bed linen. Upgrade to 4 berth enclosed sleeper cabin available, contact us for details.
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1
- Guided sightseeing - St Petersburg city, Peter and Paul Fortress and the Hermitage at Winter Palace, Novgorod, Moscow city and Kremlin
- Russian banya (sauna) experience
- Moscow Metro travel card - 6 journeys
- Escorted by an English speaking Russian tour leader
- Specialist Russian guides at local sights

Russia Revolution 9 days

- All relevant transfers and transportation on tour
- NOTE: In Russia on the go use 3 star and 4 star accommodation as classified by the Russian Ministry of Tourism. However, please be aware that 3 star and 4 star standards throughout Russia vary greatly and cannot be compared to hotels of a similar standard in Western Europe or, and in particular, the United States.

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Entrance Fees: $50-60 USD

BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

Pukka Pass - USD $149

Start the day with a visit to either the gardens of palatial Peterhof, overlooking the Gulf of Finland in the summer OR Catherine Palace at Tsarskoe Selo in the winter (Pavlosk Palace is viewed if Catherine Palace is closed). We stop for lunch at the popular restaurant, where we enjoy a hearty meal, before exploring inside the beautiful Church on Spilled Blood.

Catherine Palace or Peterhof - USD $89

Take a step back in time - enjoy a guided tour of the stunning Royal Residences of the Russian Tsars, located in the outskirts of St Pete's and admire the beautiful Russian countryside on the way. Our Catherine Palace (winter) or Peterhof Gardens (summer) bolt on is available on all tours visiting St Petersburg.

Inside a Soviet Bunker - USD $109

Head 65 meters underground to the Underground Cold War Museum - a Stalinist-era Soviet Bunker that up until recently was a top secret symbol of Soviet Power. This mighty 75,000-square-foot facility was constructed covertly in the 1950s, to protect the select few against a US nuclear attack. Step back in time to the clandestine and tense era of the Cold War and enjoy an interactive tour of this bunker turned museum, followed by a tour of the most luxurious and extravagant of the Stalinist era metro stations with their marble columns and chandeliers all with an English speaking guide.

Novgorod Countryside Stay - USD $549

Escape the bustling city of St Petersburg with an overnight stay in a country house in ancient Novgorod. Your visit begins with a tour of the historic Kremlin (Fortress) grounds and the open air museum of Russian wooden architecture. You've free time to admire Novgorod - listed by UNESCO as one of the top 100 cities of the world. Why not soak up the views from a leisurely walk along the Volkhov river, visit one of the great medieval abbeys, or wander round the quaint shops and bars.

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $1,689

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement. All our group tours are guaranteed to depart subject to a minimum of 2 travellers.

2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
29 JUN - 07 JUL	USD $1,799	USD $849
13 JUL - 21 JUL	USD $1,799	USD $849
27 JUL - 04 AUG	USD $1,799	USD $849
17 AUG - 25 AUG	USD $1,799	USD $849
07 SEP - 15 SEP	USD $1,799	USD $849
05 OCT - 13 OCT	USD $1,799	USD $849
09 NOV - 17 NOV	USD $1,689	USD $729
30 NOV - 08 DEC	USD $1,689	USD $729

2014

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
22 FEB - 02 MAR	USD $1,689	USD $729
08 MAR - 16 MAR	USD $1,689	USD $729
22 MAR - 30 MAR	USD $1,689	USD $729
05 APR - 13 APR	USD $1,799	USD $849
19 APR - 27 APR	USD $1,799	USD $849
03 MAY - 11 MAY	USD $1,799	USD $849
07 JUN - 15 JUN	USD $1,799	USD $849
12 JUL - 20 JUL	USD $1,799	USD $849
26 JUL - 03 AUG	USD $1,799	USD $849
16 AUG - 24 AUG	USD $1,799	USD $849
06 SEP - 14 SEP	USD $1,799	USD $849
04 OCT - 12 OCT	USD $1,799	USD $849
08 NOV - 16 NOV	USD $1,689	USD $729
29 NOV - 07 DEC	USD $1,689	USD $729

Supplementary Prices

Russia Revolution 9 days

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
4 Berth Sleeper Train Upgrade Novgorod - Moscow	USD $109	USD $0

POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.

I loved all the sights in St. Petersburg, Novgorod and Moscow and the historical information we received.

Alex Killen , Jan 2013

The guide, Olga, was exceptionally good, keen, intelligent, involved, efficient, etc. The tour leader probably was the most important factor in making this such an exceptionally good experience.

Arnold Levin , Aug 2012

Our guide was fantastic - very knowledgeable and friendly. He is a great asset to your company.

Megan, May 2012

Yevgeny was a wonderful guide! Friendly, helpful and knowledgeable I highly recommend him as a tour guide - He is also good looking :)

Peta Holness , Mar 2012

A fun trip, quite interesting. Rarely boring. Russia is not an easy country to travel in, but I appreciated all the help from the guides and from on the go. The local staff were also very good - they were tremendous help to me after I lost my passport.

Stephen Irish, Sep 2011

Both St.Petersburg and Novgorod were Absolutely Amazing. The whole Experience of those Cities was great- the ballet, the church on spilled blood, the Banya and the hotel in Novgorod.

Shahedah Sabdia , Aug 2011

It's been an amazing experience. I enjoyed the size of the groop and was very impressed how hospitable + knowlegeble Viktorisa was.

Russia Revolution 9 days

Madeleine Winterton , Aug 2011

Dear Sarah, Just to let you know I had a fantastic holiday. Katya our guide was amazing, her knowledge of Russian History, Politics and Architecture was immense. She had a wonderful sense of humour and no request was too difficult for her to fulfill. I got to go to two ballets thanks to Katy's organisation (one at the Marinsky) which was such a special experience. The overall tour organisation was efficient, plus the variety of the itinerary meant there was something to suit everyone.

Trisha Keyes-Bevan, Jul 2011