

The Big Chill 9 days



Seasons greetings from Russia! Enjoy a relaxed yuletide in St Petersburg - northern city of the tsars, relax and defrost in a traditional banya (sauna) in ancient Novgorod and frost up for New Year in hedonistic Moscow, Russia's mighty capital city.

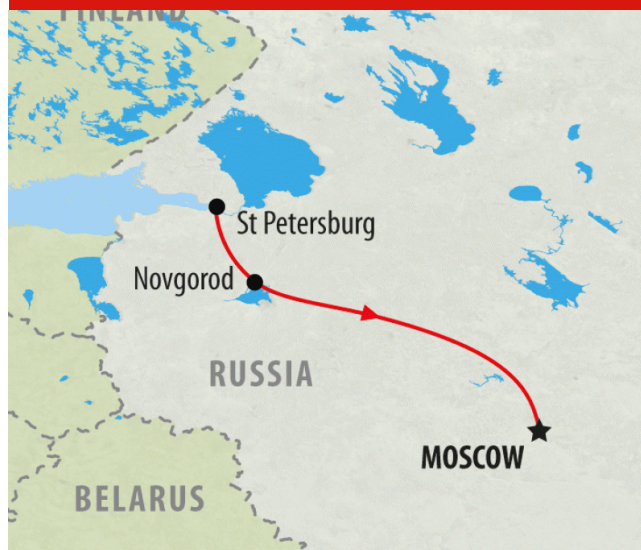
TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: St Petersburg / Ends in: Moscow
- Departs: 24 Dec 2015
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 8, Lunch: 1, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: 3 star
- Tour Guide: Yes - For groups of 6 or more

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?](#) ::: [Best Places to Visit](#) ::: [Best Time to Visit](#) ::: [Russia Reviews](#) ::: [Hotels in Russia](#) ::: [Russia Useful Info](#) ::: [FAQs on Russia](#) ::: [Russia Visas](#) ::: [Russia Gallery](#)

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Day 1: St Petersburg

Welcome to St Petersburg and the start of your winter holiday! Upon arrival you will be met at St Petersburg Pulkovo Airport and transferred to your hotel for check-in. Tonight, our welcome meeting takes place where you'll meet the rest of your group and guide. Enjoy the rest of the evening at your own leisure. Overnight - [St Petersburg](#)

Day 2: Christmas Day

Merry Christmas! This morning a driving tour will give us an introduction to St Petersburg. We will make our way along the famed Nevsky Prospekt, past the museum and university districts and a few photo stops will be made along the way at places such as the magnificent St Isaac's Cathedral and The Bronze Horseman. Later, we will enjoy a guided tour of the Hermitage Museum in the Winter Palace - which houses one of the biggest and best art collections on earth. The rest of the day is free for you to further explore. Tonight, head out on the town or enjoy a Christmas drink in local bar, cafe or at our hotel.

During our time in St Petersburg there may be the chance to join one of our optional evening excursions, such as a traditional Cossacks performance or a night at the Russian Ballet. Overnight - [St Petersburg](#)

Day 3: St Pete's Sightseeing

We start today's touring with a visit to Peter & Paul Fortress and the Peter & Paul Cathedral, which houses the tombs of the Romanov monarchs. Then we'll head out to city to explore Catherine Palace at Tsarskoe Selo in winter (or Pavlosk Palace if Catherine Palace is closed). At Catherine Palace its the exterior and the interiors of this lavishly decorated building that really catch the eye - and the spectacular Amber room is a real highlight! After stopping for a hearty traditional lunch at a local restaurant, we'll continue on for a guided tour of the exquisite interior of The Church on Spilled Blood. Overnight - [St Petersburg](#)



Day 4: Time to Explore

St Petersburg – Novgorod. Today gives you the opportunity to shop for some last minute souvenirs, maybe some traditional nesting dolls or Russian memorabilia found at the canal side market near the striking Church on Spilled Blood. Alternatively a walk along St Petersburg's main street - Nevsky Prospekt. Later we travel on to ancient Novgorod, where we will enjoy a steamy Russian banya (sauna) and hearty dinner. 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, that was formed as a town in the middle of the 10th century. A guided tour of Novgorod takes in the riverside fortified Kremlin, cathedral and other sights of interest. The Kremlin 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 City Tour

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 walking tour, taking in sights such as the epitome of Russian power – the Kremlin, 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.

Spend the remainder of the day at your own leisure. During our stay in Moscow there will be the chance to join one of our optional evening excursions, such as a traditional Cossack Show or a Moscow by Night coach tour. Overnight - [Moscow](#)

Day 7: The Kremlin

This morning we head back to Red Square to pay our respects to Lenin - the grandfather of Communism, at his eerie mausoleum. It is here that his embalmed body has lain in state since his death in

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1924. Later we will continue to 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.

The rest of the day is free for you to independently explore the city. As well as boasting some of the country's most recognizable landmarks, Moscow is also home to internationally acclaimed museums and art galleries, respectable retail havens in the form of malls, markets and boutique-style shops, and hundreds of restaurants and cafes serving a wide variety of cuisine. Overnight - [Moscow](#)

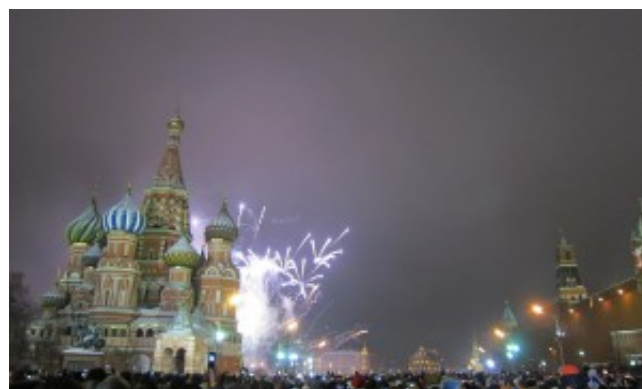


Day 8: New Year's Eve

Today is free for you to explore Moscow on your own. For souvenirs, Izmailova Market is the place to go. Behind its whimsically decorated walls you'll find one of the best markets in Moscow, whether you want to pick up some tacky souvenirs, genuine fur hats or some traditional handmade crafts.

, Alternatively you can book our optional Inside a Soviet Bunker excursion locally and head 65 meters underground to explore a Stalinist-era bunker that up until recently was a top secret symbol of Soviet Power and is now a museum.

Tonight is New Year's Eve and time to celebrate, Russian-style! Venturing back to Red Square we will join the crowds - locals and travellers alike, to ring in the New Year. With an electric atmosphere and a spectacular firework show illuminating the distinctive turrets of St Basil's Cathedral above the frosty square, this will be a party to remember! Alternatively, head out on your own and discover the best of Moscow's bars and nightclubs. Overnight - [Moscow](#)



Day 9: New Year's Day

Happy New Year! Our tour comes to an end after breakfast and hotel check-out.

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, Church on Spilled Blood, The Bronze Horseman and Admiralty End
- **St Petersburg's palaces** - the Hermitage Museum at the Winter Palace and St Catherine's Palace
- **Novgorod** - ancient city by the Volkhov River - kremlin, cathedral and other sights
- **Moscow** - UNESCO-listed Red Square, Kremlin and Lenin's Mausoleum and St Basil's Cathedral

What's Included

- 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 dinners
- 7 nights 3 star hotels
- 1 overnight train Novgorod - Moscow (open sleeper carriage) 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, Novgorod and Moscow
- Russian banya (sauna) experience
- Moscow Metro travel card - 6 journeys
- Escorted by an English speaking Russian tour leader (for groups of 6 or more)
- Specialist Russian guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation on tour

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What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Entrance Fees: \$70-80 USD

PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$1,949

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.

2015

| Date | Price/Person | Single Supp. |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 24 DEC - 01 JAN | USD \$1,949 | USD \$799 |

2016

| Date | Price/Person | Single Supp. |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 24 DEC - 01 JAN | USD \$1,949 | USD \$799 |

Supplementary Prices

| | Price/Person | Single Supp. |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| 4 Berth Sleeper Train Upgrade Novgorod - Moscow | USD \$149 | USD \$0 |

HOTELS:

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

Hotel Moscow - St Petersburg

The spacious rooms at Hotel Moscow are simply furnished, with modern amenities and en suite facilities. Many of the rooms boast wonderful views of the Neva River and Alexander Nevsky monastery. Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel and there are five restaurants on site to enjoy delicious International and Russian cuisine. While the Panorama Bar on the 8th floor offers tasty beverages and incredible views of St Petersburg's historic centre. The Hotel Moscow is centrally located just off Nevsky Prospekt. The hotel is just 2 minutes walk from Alexander Nevsky Square Metro Station.



Yurievskoe Podvorie - Novgorod

The Yurievskoe Podvorie is a traditional Russian farmstead hotel. All the rooms are comfortable with good amenities. The hotel also has a fantastic restaurant serving traditional Russian cuisine in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.



Izmailovo Gamma Delta - Moscow

Formerly part of the Olympic Village at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, Divided into two wings, Gamma and Delta - the Izmailovo Gamma Delta is part of one of the biggest hotels in the world. The rooms are comfortable and with modern amenities and there is also a number of excellent restaurants plus a gym and swimming pool. On arrival to the hotel guests are often welcomed with chocolate and still bottled mineral water. Well located with good access to transport links.



POSTCARDS:

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

I had a wonderful trip and big thank you to on the go for a well organised trip!

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F Graham, Jan 2014

This was definitely the best tour I have ever been on!

Michelle Roux, Jan 2014

I had a lovely time and really enjoyed my Russia experience. Olga was very friendly and outgoing - pleasure to be around.

Danielle Brooks, Jan 2010

An excellent tour. Olga was organized, efficient and calm. Related well to all members of the group and all our needs. Will be recommending on the go to all my friends. Thanks guys.

Amanda Smith, Jan 2010

I have to say that we could not have had a better choice of guide. Katya was incredible knowledgeable, coordinated, caring and most of all fun. She made this trip full of wonderful memories :-)

Tanya Morrison, Dec 2008

Katya was incredible. She really knows Russia and its' history. From a good beat down at the Banya to the details of seemingly every building in St Pete's, Moscow and every work of art in the Hermitage... very impressive. I wish I knew this much about Canada.

Dennis Harnet, Dec 2008

The tour leader was excellent, covering everything from politics, economics, life in Russia, job industry etc. such an eye opener for the group. Good mix of history and free time and NY partying.

Luke Strong, Dec 2008
