The Snowball 6 days

No stuffing turkeys or entertaining aunts, head to mighty Russia this Christmas or New Year! With fun and good cheer unwrap St Petersburg and the nation's capital - Moscow.

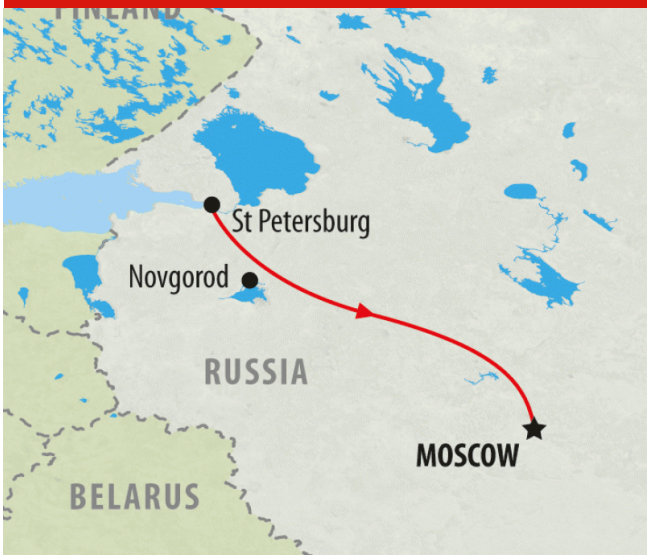
TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: St Petersburg / Ends in: Moscow
- Departs: 27 Dec 2014, 24 & 27 Dec 2015
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:5, Lunch: 0, Dinner: 0
- 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 Russia 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. This evening our welcome meeting will take place, where you'll meet the rest of your group and tour leader. The rest of the evening is free for you to enjoy - maybe head to the bar for a few drinks or the hotel coffee lounge. Overnight - St Petersburg

Day 2: The Hermitage

After breakfast we will set out on a tour of the city, providing an ideal introduction to St Petersburg. Travelling by mini-bus we will pass through the museum and university district and along Nevsky Prospekt, stopping to see the facade of the Church on Spilled Blood and the Bronze Horseman. Our city tour also includes a visit to Peter and Paul Fortress, which was built in 1703 and has housed many famous political prisoners. The magnificent cathedral within the fortress also houses the remains of the Romanov Dynasty. This afternoon we will enjoy a guided tour of the Hermitage - home to one of the biggest art and antiquity collections on earth, the bulk of which was amassed by Catherine the Great.

Enjoy free time for the remainder of the day. 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: Free time to explore

St Petersburg - Moscow. Today there is time for you to independently explore the city or take in a little more culture and history with our optional Pukka Pass bolt-on. The pass includes guided sightseeing, transportation, entrance fees and lunch. We will start the day with a tour of Catherine Palace at Tsarskoe Selo (or Pavlovsk Palace if Catherine Palace is closed).

Later we will tuck into a hearty meal at a local restaurant before continuing with our guided touring to the Church on Spilled Blood. This evening we board the overnight sleeper train to Moscow. Overnight - Sleeper Train

Day 4: Red Square

An early morning arrival will bring us into Moscow where we will head to our hotel for check-in. This afternoon we will ride the capital's efficient Metro to Red Square, for a walking tour. Here we will see the fantastical St Basil's Cathedral, the iconic Kremlin, Lenin's Mausoleum and the glitzy Neo-Russian facade of the GUM shopping mall.

The rest of the day is free for you to explore more of Moscow. Cultured out? Moscow's restaurants and clubs are open 'til very late! 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 5: 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 1924. Later we will continue to the Kremlin - Russia's bastion of political might, where we will enjoy a guided walk through the grounds, seeing numerous government buildings, gold-domed cathedrals and the tsar bell. The remainder of the day is free for you to relax or perhaps visit one or two of the city's plentiful museums. Alternatively we offer an optional guided tour of a formerly top secret Cold War bunker today. Overnight - Moscow

Day 6: Goodbye Russia!

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 and Peter and Paul Fortress
- St Petersburg Hermitage at the Winter Palace
- Other sites of St Petersburg included on the optional pukka pass
- **Moscow** - UNESCO-listed Red Square, Kremlin and Lenin's Mausoleum and St Basil's Cathedral

What's Included

- 5 breakfasts
- 4 nights 3 star hotels
- 1 overnight train St Petersburg - Moscow (open sleeper cabin) including bed linen
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1
- Guided sightseeing of St Petersburg, Petr and Paul Fortress, the Hermitage at Winter Palace, Pskov, Pechory, Moscow city and Kremlin
- Moscow Metro travel card - 6 journeys
- Escorted by an English speaking Russian tour leader
- Specialist Russian guides at local sights
- All relevant transfers and transportation on tour

What's Not Included

- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- International flights and visa
- 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 $179

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 $119

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.

Novgorod Countryside Stay - USD $679

Escape the bustling city of St Petersburg with an overnight stay in ancient Novgorod. Your visit begins with a tour of the historic Kremlin (Fortress) grounds and the open air museum of Russian wooden architecture, then there's free time to independently explore 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 $1,149

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.

2014

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
27 DEC - 01 JAN	USD $1,149	USD $529

2015

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
24 DEC - 29 DEC	USD $1,149	USD $529
27 DEC - 01 JAN	USD $1,149	USD $529

Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
4 Berth Sleeper Train Upgrade St Petes - Moscow	USD $119	USD $0

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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.

Izmailovo Gamma Delta - Moscow

Formerly part of the Olympic Village at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, Divided into two wings, Gamma and Delta - thhe 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.

Russia - more than beat expectations!

Mandy Reeve, Feb 2014

Well worth the money. Fantastic trip + very memorable!

Erin Wallace, Feb 2014

Tour guide was great with lots of good information.

Mark Dougherty , Jan 2013

It was fantastic. Our tour guide was amazing, he knew everything, was smart, lovely and she really made the trip!

James Peach , Jan 2013

We travelled with On the Go on the 6 day Snow Ball tour for Christmas 2010. We had a fantastic guide (Zhenya) who took most of the stress and difficulty out of travelling in Russia – we really appreciate how amazing and organised she was – and having a guide gave us some great insights into life in Russia that we would not have otherwise had. All the hotels and travel was very comfortable, and in all our dealings with them On the Go were helpful and professional. We would highly recommend doing this tour through On the Go.

Miss Anita Legge, Jan 2011

Really enjoyed the tour! Russia is a great country and definitely worth visiting, especially in winter - with everything beautifully covered in snow! I had an amazing time with great fellow travellers and friendly atmosphere.I

Vanessa Summers, Jan 2010

Olga, our guide, was absolutely fantastic! Tour was much better than I expected and I will be recommending On the Go tourswith no hesitation!

Dianne, Jan 2010

I loved it! I loved all the snow! I loved Olga! Thank you very much!

Annalie de Wet, Jan 2010