White Russian 7 days

For a truly unique new year's break, celebrate in Russia's thriving capital city. See the city before travelling onwards to beautiful St Petersburg with such delights as The Hermitage and Peter and Paul Fortress

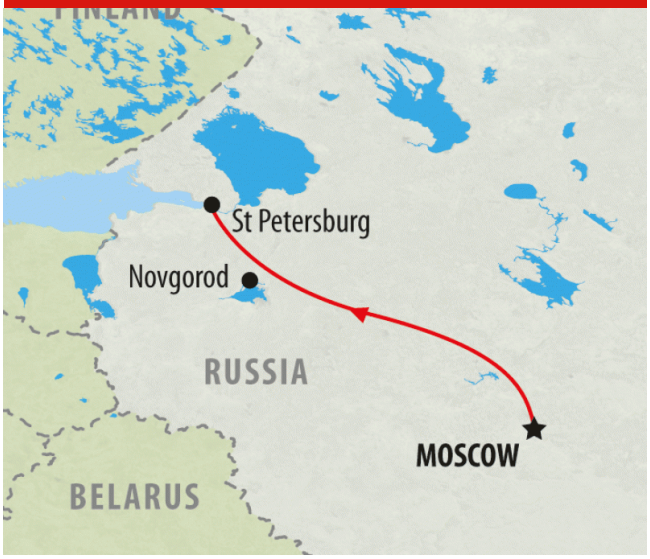
TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Moscow / Ends in: St Petersburg
- Departs: 29 Dec 2015
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:6, Lunch: 0, Dinner: 0
- 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: Moscow

Tuesday 29 December 2015. Welcome to Russia and the start of your winter holiday! Upon arrival you will be met at the 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. Spend the remains of the evening at leisure. Perhaps enjoy a few drinks in the bar and get to know your new travelling companions. Overnight - Moscow

Day 2:

Start the day with a ride on the Moscow Metro - one of Stalin's favourite gifts to the people. Quite unlike any other underground transport system in the world, many of the stations here offer an air of elegance with huge chandeliers, incredible mosaics, soaring ceilings and monumental sculptures. Arriving in legendary Red Square, we will begin our guided tour exploring the surrounding area, including the spectacular facade of St Basil's Cathedral, the elegant GUM department store and Lenin's Mausoleum. Later in the day, there is the option to visit Gorky Park - Moscow's largest and most popular park. During the festive season, a vast area of the park is transformed into a giant ice skating rink, where we'll test our skating skills and enjoy some winter fun.

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 3: New Year's Eve

Today, we will enjoy a guided tour of the mighty Moscow Kremlin - oncr the citadel of the tsars, headquarters of the since defunct Soviet Union and now the residence of the Russian president. Highlights include the Cathedral of the Annunciation - a breathtaking cathedral crowned by gold onion domes, the Ivan the Great Bell Tower and its Tsar Bell - at an incredible 200 tonnes it is the largest bell in the world, and curiously enough, has never rung.

The rest of the day is free for you to enjoy the final day of the year your own way. There's plenty of museums, shops and bars to entertain you in the capital. For your New Year's Eve celebrations there's no shortage of bars and nightclubs, otherwise head to Red Square with your guide to join the crowds - of both 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, you'll be guaranteed to see in the New Year with a bang! Overnight - Moscow

Day 4: Moscow to St Pete's

Happy New Year! Spend New Year's Day at leisure exploring Moscow. Why not get some shopping done at the extravagant GUM department store, or head to Ismailova Market. It may not look like it from the outside, but behind the whimsically decorated walls of Izmailova 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 this is the place to go. Plus don't forget to bargain! This evening we board our overnight sleeper train, bound for St Petersburg. Overnight - On board train

Day 5: Explore St Pete's

This morning see the sights of St Petersburg on a city tour. Travelling by mini-bus we will make our way down Nevsky Prospekt - the main stretch of the city centre, and stop to see the facade of the Church On Spilled Blood and the Bronze Horseman. We also enjoy a guided tour of Peter and Paul Fortress.

Later we will enjoy a guided tour of the magnificent Hermitage Collection at the Winter Palace. Housing some 2.8 million pieces of art, with collections ranging from Egyptian mummies to Greek vases and a vast and dazzling array of Old Masters, we'll view the highlights.

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

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Day 6: Optional Pukka Pass

Today offers free time to explore St Petersburg your own way or if you opted for the Pukka Pass enjoy a full day of guided sightseeing. Driving out of town we will tour the lavish Catherine Palace at Tsarskoe Selo (or Pavlosk Palace if Catherine Palace is closed), an ornately decorated building that really catches the eye - the lavish Amber room is a real highlight. Back in the city we will enjoy a traditional Russian lunch at a local restaurant, and continue with a tour of the Church on Spilled Blood, with time to shop in the souvenir market located alongside the church. Overnight - St Petersburg

Day 7: Goodbye Russia!

Monday 04 January 2016. 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, Peter and Paul Fortress, Church on Spilled Blood, The Bronze Horseman and Admiralty End
- Guided tour of the Hermitage at the Winter Palace
- Moscow - Russia's hedonistic capital, Red Square, Lenin's Mausoleum and St Basil's Cathedral
- New Years Eve in UNESCO-listed Red Square
- Guided tour of the Moscow Kremlin

What's Included

- 6 breakfasts
- 5 nights 3 star accommodation
- 1 night sleeper train (open sleeper cabin) - Moscow to St Petersburg
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1
- Moscow City tour and Kremlin
- Escorted by an English speaking Russian tour leader
- Specialist Russian guides at local sights
- Relevant transfers and transportation on tour
- Moscow Metro travel card - 6 journeys
- St Petersburg - Guided touring of The Hermitage in the Winter Palace and Peter and Paul Fortress

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 $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.

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $1,299

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.
29 DEC - 04 JAN	USD $1,299	USD $459

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.

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.

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.

POSTCARDS:

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

Olga is an outstanding tour leader. She is entertaining, charming, intuitive. Her enthusiastic, considerate and humorous manner made the tour very special for us.

Greg Lawrence , Jan 2013

Well organized tour, especially with two groups in St Petes and five in Moscow. Thank you, I loved getting to see Russia.

Samantha Gemmell , Jan 2013

I really enjoyed doing a tour with On the go. It was also my first time in Russia and I loved the experience.

Colin Gough , Jan 2013