



tour spotlight

what you see

- St Petersburg - UNESCO-listed city area including Nevsky Prospekt, Peter and Paul Fortress, Admiralty End, The Bronze Horseman, Church on Spilled Blood (exterior only), St Petersburg Hermitage at the Winter Palace
- Other sites of St. Petersburg included on the optional pukka pass (see brochure)
- Ancient Pskov & surrounds
- Pechory Monastery
- Moscow - UNESCO-listed Red Square, Kremlin, Lenin's Mausoleum, St Basil's Cathedral

Please Note: Entrance fees are payable by you, locally. Budget approximately USD\$50-60 for your entire tour. This amount will include entrance fees for the Moscow Kremlin, St Petersburg Hermitage and other sites visited on your tour.

what you get

- 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinners
- 7 nights 3★ hotels
- 1 night train Pskov - Moscow (open sleeper cabin) incl bed linen
- Airport arrival transfer included if arriving in on day one
- Guided sightseeing - St Petersburg city coach tour, Peter and Paul Fortress, Hermitage at Winter Palace, Pskov, Pechory, Moscow city and Kremlin
- Russian banya (sauna) experience
- Winter pursuits - ice skating, cross-country skiing in Pskov (weather permitting)
- Moscow Metro travel card - 6 journeys
- English speaking Russian tour leader & specialist local guides
- Relevant transfers and transportation on tour



on location

Your guide to on the ground...

visa requirements

Visas are required by all visitors to Russia. Booking through on the go will allow us in the first instance to procure your invitation to enter Russia, a copy of which will be forwarded to the Embassy in your country and held on record until your visa application, passport and fees are received. If a resident of the UK, we'll provide visa forms and can arrange visa procurement. If resident overseas, please contact a specialist visa company to procure visa forms and to arrange visa issue. Further

information is also available online at onthegotours.com. It is your responsibility to ensure you procure your visa in a timely fashion. Visa fees are at your own expense.

climate

Continental, with distinct periods of warm and very cold weather. Summer days from mid-May - early Sept are warm and very long. Autumn is brief, and by end Nov, temps plummet and the snow arrives. Spring arrives bringing with it the great thaw in March and April. If visiting in winter, wear extremely warm attire inc. a hat, gloves, long coat, thermals and sensible shoes.

time

Western Russia is 3 hours ahead of GMT.

money

GBP 1=RUB 48 USD 1=RUB 30 AUD 1=RUB 30 EUR 1=RUB 40 (subject to fluctuation). The Rouble is exchangeable only in Russia. Bureau de Change and ATMs exist in Moscow and St Pete's and currency can be withdrawn in either Euros or Roubles in most machines. Changing traveller cheques is cumbersome. Credit cards are not always accepted. Note: All optional tours purchased locally are payable in USD/EURO cash not Roubles.

health requirements

Diphtheria, Polio and Tetanus. If visiting Yekaterinburg and doing outdoor activities between May-August, a vaccination for tick-borne Encephalitis is recommended. Please check with your local health provider.

how much?

- **ENTRANCE FEES**
Entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately USD \$50-60
- **TIPPING**
In better restaurants tip 10% if you are pleased with the food/service. If you would like to express your thanks to your driver, local guide or tour leader, we would suggest approx USD\$25 - 30 per person. Though naturally tipping is an entirely personal gesture.
- Mineral water (500ml or 1L) RUB 30
- Can of coke RUB 30
- Beer (local brew Stella - 500ml approx) RUB 50-80
- Meal for 2 (entree, main, local beer) RUB 1500-2000

things to bring

- Cottons for summer; coat, hat, gloves, scarf and thermals for winter!
- Pristine notes for exchange, bring US Dollars and Euros.
- Comfortable walking shoes for exploring the fantastic art filled Winter Palace.
- A Russian phrasebook.
- A photocopy of your passport and credit card.
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs.

top experiences

- Strolling along Red Square, Moscow and spotting famous St Basil's and the Kremlin.
- Getting steamy in a Russian banya (sauna) with veniki (birch twigs).
- Revelling in the beauty of St Pete's Winter Palace, taking in the stunning decor and prized art exhibits.
- Paying your respects to the wax-like Lenin at his mausoleum in Red Square.
- Sampling a shot of the world's finest vodka!





the big ruski: itinerary

24 dec - christmas eve

Welcome to Russia and the start of your holiday! Meet and Greet group arrival transfer from St Petersburg Pulkovo Airport. We register our hotel stay and check-in. Tonight, around 2000hrs, our tip-filled Welcome Meeting takes place. Rest of evening free. Your trip leader will recommend some local bars and restaurants for you to try out. Overnight - St Petersburg.

An arrival transfer is included for all those arriving on day 1 or those arriving earlier who have booked pre tour accommodation through on the go. An arrival transfer is included for all those arriving on day 1 or those arriving earlier who have booked pre tour accommodation through on the go. Our transfer representatives wait 90 minutes from the time your flight has landed and they will be waiting for you with a visible on the go sign. It is important if you are delayed that you contact our Moscow or St Petersburg office (as detailed on your tour voucher) to advise that you have been delayed for whatever reason. If your luggage has been misplaced, head to 'Information' or your airline's desk prior to exiting Customs to find out how you may lodge a 'lost luggage' report beyond Customs, in 'Arrivals'.

25 dec - christmas day

St Petersburg - breakfast. Merry Christmas and welcome to St Petersburg - city of tsars! Founded by Peter the Great in 1703, St Petersburg is designed around an intrinsic network of canals and rivers built in lavish and grandiose style. As with all pioneering founding fathers and wanna-be town-planners, Peter had his work cut out. He probably chose the most desolate and windswept piece of swamp in all of the Imperial Russian Empire and should have known it was a bad idea to found a city here. The first flood, just three months after he started building the Peter and Paul Fortress in 1703, swept away all his building materials. He pushed on relentlessly, though. The water rises dangerously high on average once a year, though four floods, in 1777, 1824, 1924 and 1955, wrought mighty damage. Indeed, in 1824 the whole city was submerged and 462 buildings were destroyed. Fortunately, in 1989 construction of a dam was begun to prevent a future catastrophic flood.

Known as the cradle of Revolution, in the 20th century St Petersburg underwent three name changes, three revolutions and a whopping 900-day siege. St Petersburg, or 'Piter', as the residents of the city affectionately refer to their home, has been known by many monikers during the course of its often-turbulent existence. Russia's 'Venice or Amsterdam of the North', 'Window to the West', Petrograd and of course-Leningrad are but a few of the names the city has been called. All of these names embody in some way what St Petersburg has represented to the Russian people.

St Petersburg celebrated its Tercentenary in 2003! As a result of the important anniversary, the city had benefited greatly. Hundreds of historical buildings and churches have been restored to their former glory, new metro stations have opened, dozens of new shops and boutiques have appeared, and new museums, theatres, bars and restaurants have enlivened the cultural scene. A city coach tour gives us a run-down of St Pete's key areas. Travelling by vehicle is a really effective way of getting one's bearings in St Petersburg. We'll view highlights including the exterior of the Church on Spilled Blood and a tour of Peter and Paul Fortress.

The remains of the day are free for you to enjoy. 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. Tonight head to a local cafe for dinner or have a few Christmas drinks in a club or bar. Cheers! Overnight - St Petersburg.

26 dec - pukka pass

St Petersburg - breakfast. Free day. If you purchase the pukka pass, day 3 will include a full day of sightseeing in St. Petersburg including all transportation, guiding, entrance fees and lunch. A visit to either the gardens of Peter the Great's Peterhof, which overlook the Gulf of Finland (summer) or a visit to Catherine Palace at Tsarskoe Selo (or Pavlovsk Palace on winter tours if Catherine Palace is closed). Then stop for lunch at the Tinkoff beer restaurant before continuing on to view the inside of The Church on Spilled Blood.

Tonight, check out St Petersburg's spirited restaurant, bar and jazz club scene, plus some of Russia's best beers. Overnight - St Petersburg.

27 dec - the hermitage

St Petersburg - Pskov - breakfast. We enjoy a guided visit of the 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. This afternoon spend some free time in the city before our onward journey tonight to Pskov by coach/public bus departing at 1630 and taking approximately 4 to 5 hours. Arriving tonight, we enjoy a late dinner. Dinner & overnight - Pskov.

28 dec - pskov

Pskov - breakfast. Richly historical Pskov is built around a riverside Kremlin with a beautiful cathedral. This morning, we'll enjoy a tour of historical Pskov. Then, turn the heat up at a local Russian banya (sauna), before later enjoying a vodka and lunch. Tonight, we enjoy dinner at the hotel. Dinner & overnight - Pskov.

29 dec - pechory

Pskov - Moscow - breakfast. Today, a short drive takes us to tranquil Pechory Monastery, founded in 1473. A sea of colours and architectural styles prevail in the grounds of this still-working cloister, where if monastic law permits, we can explore the fascinating burial caves where some 10,000 souls rest. After lunch, we have some alpine fun - ice-skating on a frozen lake or cross-country skiing. There are no mountains in the region, so a special type of ski is used for cross-country. Please note that if the weather is inclement, then we may have to drink in the vodka bar instead! Tonight we travel to Moscow by sleeper train. Lunch and overnight - train.

30 dec - moscow

Moscow - breakfast. We're here in the city that kept Bond busy. Today, we'll ride the capital's Stalinist designed 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 that takes in sights such as the epitome of Russian power - the Kremlin where we enjoy on 31 December, a guided tour. In Red Square, feast your eyes on

the wildly coloured turban domed St Basil's Cathedral - an enduring Russian symbol. If open, we can see the eerie Lenin Mausoleum in Red Square, where the grandfather of Russian Communism - Vladimir Lenin still lies in state. Cultured out? Moscow's restaurants and clubs are open 'til very late! Overnight - Moscow.

NOTE: Please don't carry gigantic day - packs/rucksacks for our visit to Red Square (Lenin's Mausoleum - if open) and the Moscow Kremlin (tomorrow), as you'll need to store them before entry into the Kremlin and Lenin's Mausoleum on Red Square (which is closed during the opening times of the Mausoleum).

31 dec - new year's eve

Moscow - breakfast. Today, we head into Red Square where, if open, we can pay our respects for free to Lenin (the father of Communism) at his eerie mausoleum. Today, we enjoy a guided tour of the Moscow Kremlin - Russia's bastion of power. Walking through the grounds we'll see numerous governmental buildings, gold-domed cathedrals and the tsar bell. Rest of day free to enjoy the last day of the year your way. There's loads of eateries and bars in the immediate area - a good choice for your own private Moscow New Year's celebration! Overnight - Moscow.

01 jan - new year's day

Moscow - breakfast. Happy New Year! Hotel checkout marks the end of the tour.

NOTE: In Russia on the go use 3 star accommodation as classified by the Russian Ministry of Tourism. However, please be aware that the 3 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. Russia is suffering from a severe shortage of quality 3 star hotels.

Tourism is relatively new to the land, resulting in demand for hotels far outweighing the supply. With demand being high, hoteliers have unified with massive price increases, yet continue to paint a rose coloured picture as to what constitutes '3 star' hotel. On the go in Russia have taken great lengths to locate the best quality hotels at realistic prices in each of the cities we travel to. All the hotels we provide are clean, comfortable and functional, as well as being within close proximity to public transport, amenities and local sights.

optional activities

Ballet - St Pete's or Moscow	from USD\$70-100
Russian Cossacks/ Folk Show - St Pete's	from USD\$60-70
Boat Cruise - St Pete's (summer only)	from USD\$30
Circus - Moscow	from USD\$35-50
Moscow by night	from USD\$30

All optional excursions are subject to availability and may only be offered at specific times of the year. Tours purchased locally are payable in USD/ EURO cash, or Russian Roubles. All optional excursions will need to be booked/ paid in full on the evening of day one or morning of day two of your tour.

*The go guide & information contained herein has been compiled with care and in good faith. It is as accurate an illustration as can be given with regard to the proposed itinerary. Circumstances beyond our control such as inclement weather or local conditions could force us to amend the proposed itinerary. This document does not form part of a contract between the client and on the go and their affiliates. Any costs shown may be subject to change but are an accurate reflection of costs at the time of writing this go guide. Please also be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and remain the responsibility of the traveller and not that of on the go.

