

new year's - red square

go guide

don't leave home without it



tour spotlight

what you see

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

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 dinner
- 7 nights 3★ hotels
- 1 night train Moscow - Pskov (open sleeper cabin) including bed linen
- Airport arrival transfer if arriving in on day one
- Guided sightseeing - Moscow city and Kremlin, Pskov, Pechory, St Petersburg city coach tour, Peter and Paul Fortress, Hermitage at Winter Palace
- Russian banya (sauna) experience
- Winter pursuits - ice skating, cross-country skiing in Pskov
- Moscow Metro travelcard (inclusive of 6 journeys/rides)
- English speaking Russian tour leader
- Relevant transfers on tour



on location

Your guide to on the ground...

visa requirements

Visas are required by all visitors to Russia. If you book an on the go tour directly with us or through your travel agent, we can obtain the letter of invitation for you which is required for Russian visa applications. 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. Further information is also available online at onthegotours.com. It is your responsibility to ensure you procure your visa in a

timely fashion. We recommend you apply for your visa at least 1 month before departure. 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 or Russian 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!





new year's red square: itinerary

29 dec - moscow

Welcome to Russia and the start of your holiday!
Meet and Greet group arrival transfer from Moscow Domodedovo Airport. We register our hotel stay and check-in. Tonight, around 8pm, our tip-filled Welcome Meeting takes place. Rest of evening free. Overnight - Moscow.

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. As the transfer representative will not personally recognise you, it is important you keep an eye out for the 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'. That way, you may rendezvous with your transfer representative in a timely fashion.

30 dec - walking tour

Moscow - breakfast. Moscow lies in the centre of what is known as European Russia. The border between Europe and Asia runs down the West Side of the Ural Mountains just 1300 km (805 miles) east of Moscow. Also to the east of Moscow is the mighty Volga River. Moscow's origins stretch back 850 years and despite a chequered history, Moscow is considered the heart of Russia in all ways. Moscow is a city where ancient Russia meets the Soviet Union and capitalism-boldly illustrated by the golden onion domes of the Kremlin's Orthodox Churches which peer out past Lenin's austere red granite mausoleum and over the massive GUM shopping complex-home to Barbie and Levi jeans. The city is the barometer and epicentre of the changes sweeping through Russia. The city's vitality, chaos and extremes are a direct result of the collapse of Communism and the efforts of its some 9 million citizens to reinvent their lives.

The Kremlin, a north-pointing triangle with 750 metre sides, is at Moscow's heart in every way. Red Square lies along its eastern side, the Moskva River flows to the south. From here, Moscow is best described as spreading out in four distinctive rings of development-each area having its own cluster of museums, elegant buildings, shops and monasteries. Most of Moscow's sights are within the first circle-an area that is easily covered on foot. Good news - Moscow lacks steep hills! Today we take a walking tour of Kitay-Gorod and Lubyanka area where visits can make to St Basil's Cathedral, the GUM department store or Lenin's Mausoleum. Later we take a ride on the Stalinist-era Metro to view some of the elaborately decorated stations or go ice skating in Gorky Park. Overnight - Moscow.

31 dec - new year's eve

Moscow - breakfast. Today, we'll ride the capital's efficient Metro to Red Square to enjoy a guided tour of the mighty Kremlin and the grounds, where we'll see numerous government buildings, gold-domed cathedrals and the tsar bell. Citadel of the tsars, headquarters of the since defunct Soviet Union and now the residence of the Russian president, for centuries the Kremlin has been symbol of the power of the state. Joseph Stalin orchestrated his special blend of terror

from within these walls. Below the glistening gold domes of the Kremlin are a series of breathtaking cathedrals and churches within the Kremlin complex.

The rest of the day is free for you to explore more of Moscow. Cultured out? It's New Year's Eve! Moscow's restaurants and clubs are open 'til very late! Red Square is also the centre of much celebration, so get where it's all happening and make your new year's celebration a bolshoi (BIG) one! 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 today, 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).

01 jan - free time

Moscow - Pskov - breakfast. Free day. Perhaps a chance to nurse away a hangover?! Tonight, we congregate for our onward overnight journey by train to Pskov. Overnight - sleeper train.

02 jan - pskov

Pskov region - breakfast. Arrival at Pskov and check-in to hotel. With the Estonian border just 30km away, richly historical Pskov has played host to a stream of Baltic invaders for 700 years.

Today, we enjoy some alpine fun - ice-skating on the frozen lake or cross-country skiing with lunch. *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, the itinerary may alter slightly. Early this afternoon, we steam up at a local Russian banya (sauna) and also indulge in a vodka and shashlyk lunch. Back at our hotel tonight, we relax and tuck into dinner. Lunch, dinner & overnight - Pskov.

03 jan - pechory

Pskov - St Petersburg - breakfast. Today, a tour of Pskov takes in the riverside kremlin, cathedral and other sights. A short drive brings us to the beautiful 14th century Pechory Monastery, where we explore the grounds and if monastic law permits, an exploration of the burial caves of this still-working cloister. Evening coach to St Petersburg. Lunch & overnight - St Petersburg.

04 jan - the hermitage

St Petersburg - breakfast. 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. 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.

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. Afterwards,

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, then a visit to Peter and Paul Fortress. The remains of the day is 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. St Petersburg has a spirited restaurant, bar and jazz club scene, plus some of Russia's best beer. Overnight - St Petersburg.

05 jan - explore st pete's

St Petersburg - breakfast. Free day. If you purchase the **pukka pass** today will include additional guided sightseeing inclusive of transport. Enjoy touring of 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 Pavlosk 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. Professional guided commentary and a Russian lunch. Overnight - St Petersburg.

06 jan - st petersburg

St Petersburg - breakfast and 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 through-out 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

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| 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 and 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.



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