



tour spotlight

what you see

- St Petersburg - UNESCO-listed city area - Nevsky Prospekt, Museum and University districts, Church on Spilled Blood, The Bronze Horseman. Admiralty End, St Petersburg Hermitage at the Winter Palace
- Other St. Petes sights included on the optional pukka pass
- Moscow - UNESCO-listed Red Square, Kremlin, Lenin's Mausoleum, St Basil's Cathedral
- Trans-Siberian countryside aboard the Trans-Siberian
- Yekaterinburg & city sights. Route of the Romanovs tour, Europe/Asia border marker and countryside of the Urals

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

- 7 nights 3★ hotels
- 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinners
- 2 nights train inc. St Petersburg-Moscow (open sleeper cabin) and Trans-Siberian Moscow-Yekaterinburg (4-berth sleeper cabin incl. bed linen)
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 & 10
- Guided sightseeing - St Petersburg city tour, Hermitage at Winter Palace, Moscow city and Kremlin, Yekaterinburg 'Route of the Romanovs' tour
- Moscow Metro travelcard (inclusive of 6 journeys/rides)
- Escorted by English speaking Russian tour leader (days 1-6) and specialist guides at local sights including Yekaterinburg
- 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 45 USD 1=RUB 29 AUD 1=RUB 27 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!





route of the romanovs: itinerary

day 1 - st petersburg

Tuesday. 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. 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 that if you are delayed 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'.

day 2 - the hermitage

St Petersburg - breakfast. Founded by Peter the Great, grandiose St Petersburg is designed around an intrinsic network of canals and rivers. Today 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. Driving along Nevsky Prospekt, through the museum and university district and Admiralty End, stopping to view the Church on Spilled Blood (exterior only) and the Bronze Horseman.

Later, 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.

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. St Petersburg has a spirited restaurant, bar and jazz club scene. Overnight - St Petersburg.

day 3 - free day

St Petersburg - breakfast. Free day. If you purchase the pukka pass, day 3 will include guided sightseeing inclusive of transport with touring of the Church On Spilled Blood, the Summer Gardens and stunning Grand Cascade fountains at Peterhof during summer months, or in winter Catherine Palace or Pavlovsk Palace. A hearty lunch, tour and beer tasting at the Tinkoff Brewery is also included. Later this evening we board our overnight sleeper train bound for Moscow. Overnight - sleeper train

day 4 - moscow

Moscow - breakfast. Today, we'll ride the capital's efficient 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. In Red Square, feast your eyes on the wildly coloured turban domed St Basil's Cathedral - an enduring Russian symbol. Remains of day free. Overnight - Moscow.

day 5 - the kremlin

Moscow - breakfast. Today we head into Red Square where we tour Russia's powerhouse, the mighty Kremlin, and enjoy a guided walk through the grounds. If open, we can pay our respects for free to Lenin (the father of Communism) in his eerie mausoleum. The rest of the day is free to explore Moscow. Overnight - Moscow.

NOTE: Please don't carry big bags/rucksacks for our visit to Red Square (Lenin's Mausoleum - if open) and the Moscow Kremlin, 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).

day 6 - moscow at leisure

Moscow - Yekaterinburg - breakfast. Today is yours to enjoy as you please. Since this tour runs in conjunction with other tours we

bid farewell to those not continuing on to Yekaterinburg and to our tour leader who has escorted us thus far. Hotel check-out is at around 11am but the hotel has a luggage storage facility which you can use. This afternoon we join the Trans-Siberian line east. Overnight - Trans-Siberian train to Yekaterinburg.

day 7 - all aboard

Yekaterinburg. The train continues east across the Ural Mountains. Pulling in this evening, we're met and transferred to our hotel for dinner and relaxation. Dinner & overnight - Yekaterinburg.

day 8 - yekaterinburg

Yekaterinburg - breakfast. Founded in 1723 to exploit the mineral riches of the surrounding Urals and Siberia, is Yekaterinburg. Gateway to the Urals, it is also Boris Yel'tsin's hometown and one of Russia's more colourful cities. Historically, or perhaps infamously it was here in Yekaterinburg in the cellar of a house that once stood on Ulitsa Karla Libknekhta, that Tsar Nicholas II and his family were executed on the morning of July 17 1918. Although the house no longer exists, the beautiful Church on the Blood stands in its place - coupled with a monument dedicated to the Romanovs.

Our tour takes us to the Church where you'll see the monumental sculpture depicting Tsar Nicholas II carrying the haemophiliac tsarevich Alexey (heir apparent) and standing with his wife and daughters. An area in the church details the spot where the execution took place. In the Church there is a modest display depicting the life and times of Tsar Nicholas Romanov II and his family including family portraits and a few small mementoes including a poignant solitary nutcracker soldier (thought to be a play toy belonging to the young tsarevich - Alexey).

Out of town, we visit Ganina Yama - the monastic complex set in taiga forest, where the Romanov family remains were unceremoniously dumped after their execution by firing squad in the cellar of the house back in Yekaterinburg. Their remains were later discovered and more recently, through DNA





route of the romanovs: itinerary

testing, it was determined the remains found in a mine pit where the monastic complex is now located did indeed belong to Tsar Nicholas II and his family. Curiously, it wasn't thought the young tsarevich - Alexey or his sister - Anastasia's remains were amongst those found. Despite mixed feeling, the remains were eventually interred at the SS Peter and Paul Cathedral at Peter and Paul Fortress in St Petersburg. The mine pit where the bodies were found is now considered consecrated ground, and a monastery building is situated close by. Crosses, flowers and other religious icons dot the area where they were dumped and later found.

Breaking for lunch, we then continue on a city tour taking in the Mineral or Railway Museum, before heading out to the famous Europe/Asia border marker where you can stand with a foot on either side of the boundary marker!
Lunch and overnight - Yekaterinburg

day 9 - outdoor action

Yekaterinburg - breakfast. Today it's outdoor action! Choose from a range of exciting options available locally (at own cost). In the summer there's rafting and hiking and a visit to Koptelovo (a traditional Siberian village). In the winter dog-sledding and ice fishing and more! Please call for further details.
Overnight - Yekaterinburg.

day 10 - tour ends

Thursday. Yekaterinburg - breakfast. Hotel checkout and onward departure transfer. End of arrangements.

NOTE: If you'd like to return to Moscow, we can arrange one-way transportation aboard the train, please call us for further information.

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 USA.

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 Moscow	from USD\$80
Taste of Russia	from USD\$50
Russian Cossacks/ Folk Show - St Pete's	from USD\$60
Boat Cruise - St Pete's (summer only)	from USD\$25
Circus - Moscow	from USD\$30
Moscow by night	from USD\$40
Russian National Show - Moscow	from USD\$50

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.



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