



tour spotlight

what you see

- St Petersburg - UNESCO-listed city area including:
- Nevsky Prospekt, Museum and University districts
- Peter and Paul Fortress, Church on Spilled Blood (exterior only), The Bronze Horseman and Admiralty End and the Hermitage at the Winter Palace
- Day 3 is a free day for you to explore on your own. Optional tours are available on this day at an additional cost:
- Pukka Pass - full day tour
- Gardens of Peterhof (in summer) or Catherine Palace OR Pavlovsk Palace (in winter) - morning tour

Note: Entrance fees not included - approx USD\$25-30

what you get

- 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights 3 ★ hotels
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1
- Guided sightseeing day 2 - St Petersburg city and the Hermitage at Winter Palace
- Services of an English speaking Russian tour leader during your stay.
- Relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles throughout your stay



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 Bureau de Change and ATMs exist in Moscow and St Pete's and currency can be withdrawn in either Euros or Roubles in most machines.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 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**
Some entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately USD \$25-30
- **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 through the marvellous gardens and elaborate fountains of Peterhof
- 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.
- Visiting the beautiful Church on Spilled Blood and gaze in awe at over 7000 metres of mosaics!
- Sampling a shot of the world's finest vodka!





simply st petes: itinerary

day 1 - st petersburg

Saturday. Welcome to St Pete's and the start of your long weekend! Arrival transfer from St Petersburg Airport, transfer to hotel and check in. Tonight, our Welcome Meeting takes place where you can meet other group members also staying in St Pete's for the weekend. Remainder of the evening at leisure, consider a beer and a chat with newly met friends. 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 holding 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 also 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.

day 2 - the hermitage

St Petersburg - breakfast. 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.

This morning, we embark on a city coach tour driving along Nevsky Prospekt, through the museum and university district and Admiralty End, with stops at the Church on Spilled Blood (viewed from outside from the Nevsky prospect side for photo opportunities), The Bronze Horseman and Peter and Paul Fortress.

Peter and Paul Fortress was built in 1703, on the orders of Peter the Great and is considered to mark the founding of St Petersburg. It has a gruesome history. Hundreds of forced labourers died while building the fortress and its bastions were used to hold political prisoners. The magnificent cathedral here houses the remains of the Romanov dynasty.

This afternoon we 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.

Later you can investigate St Pete's buzzing bar and jazz club scene, watch the world famous Russian ballet or enjoy the energetic Cossacks cultural performance show (book and pay locally). Overnight - St Petersburg.

day 3 - free day or optional touring

St Petersburg - breakfast. Enjoy a day at leisure in beautiful St Petes. With more than 90 museums, many of which are housed in imperial palaces, plus flamboyant galleries and churches, there is plenty to see and do.

Alternatively, if you have purchased our Pukka Pass, day 6 will include additional guided sightseeing inclusive of transport. Touring will include, dependent upon opening hours and availability, either a visit to the gardens of Peter the Great's palatial Peterhof which overlooks the Gulf of Finland (in summer) or a visit to Catherine Palace at Tsarskoe Selo in winter (or Pavlosk Palace if Catherine Palace is closed). We then stop for lunch at Tinkoff Beer Restaurant where we can enjoy a hearty meal, some beer tasting and a tour of the Tinkoff brewery. After lunch we continue with a guided tour of the interior of The Church on Spilled Blood with time to shop in the souvenir market located alongside

the church. To read more about this bolt-on see our website or brochure. Overnight - St Petersburg.

day 4 - st petersburg

Tuesday. St Petersburg - breakfast. Today gives the opportunity to shop for souvenirs, or time to take a leisurely walk around the city. Our city stay concludes after breakfast and hotel check out at 12 noon.

NOTE: In Russia on this tour, on the go use 3 and 4 star accommodation as classified by the Russian Ministry of Tourism. However, please be aware that the 3 and 4 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.

Special Interest Tour: 21/5/11 - Night at the Museums

Please note - 21/05/11 is a special departure of our Simply St Petes tour which includes the St Petersburg Night at the Museums event on the evening of day 1. Please ensure that you arrive into St Petersburg before 5pm in order to attend the event. If travelling on this day please refer to the separate Night At The Museums SS Go Guide which is available to download from our website. You will find full details of this tour and the Go Guide in the Russia 'Special Interest Tours' section on our website.

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

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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