



## tour spotlight

### what you see

- St Petersburg - UNESCO-listed city area - Nevsky Prospekt, Peter and Paul Fortress, The Bronze Horseman, Admiralty End, Church on Spilled Blood, St Petersburg Hermitage at the Winter Palace
- Other sites of St. Petersburg included on the optional pukka pass
- Novgorod - ancient city by the Volkhov River, Novgorod Kremlin, cathedral and other sights.
- 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 dinners
- 7 nights 3 ★ hotels
- 1 night train Moscow - Novgorod (open sleeper cabin) including bed linen  
Upgrade available!
- Airport arrival transfer on day one
- Guided sightseeing - St Petersburg city tour, Peter and Paul Fortress Hermitage at Winter Palace, Novgorod, Moscow city and Kremlin
- Russian banya (sauna) experience
- Moscow Metro travelcard (inclusive of 6 journeys/rides)
- English speaking Russian tour leader
- Specialist Russian guides at local sights
- Relevant transfers and transportation 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!





## the big chill: itinerary

### 24 dec - christmas eve

Welcome to Russia and the start of your holiday! Arrival transfer from the airport to hotel and check in. Tonight, around 8pm, 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 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 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. 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.

### 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 and tour Peter and Paul Fortress. We then 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. Tonight, head out on the town or enjoy a Christmas Eve drink in local bar, cafe or at our hotel. Cheers! Overnight - St Petersburg.

### 26 dec - explore st petes

St Petersburg - breakfast. Free day. If you purchase the pukka pass, you will enjoy 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 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.

This evening enjoy a night at one of St Pete's many great clubs or bars or join us for an evening at the ballet or Russian Cossacks performance (book/pay locally, if available). This evening why not sample St Petersburg's spirited restaurant, bar and jazz club scene, plus some of Russia's best beers! Overnight - St Petersburg.

### 27 dec - time to explore

St Petersburg - Novgorod - breakfast. Free day. Last day in St Pete's before we head south to Novgorod. Stock up on stackable wooden dolls at the souvenir market near the striking Church on Spilled Blood, have some delicious St Petersburg ice cream or take a hike along Nevsky. The choice is yours!

Later we travel by coach or train to Novgorod where we enjoy a steamy Russian banya (sauna). Dinner and overnight - Novgorod.





## the big chill: itinerary

### 28 dec - novgorod

Novgorod - Moscow - breakfast. Novgorod is one of Russia's oldest cities, located within reach of the Volkhov river and Lake Ilmen. It was formed as a town in the middle of the 10th century. A town of Novgorod takes in the riverside fortified kremlin, cathedral and other sights. The fortress was mentioned in chronicles as early as in 1044, whilst today's walls and towers, despite being re-built in 15th century, are impressive all the same. Tonight we have dinner before travelling by overnight sleeper train from Novgorod to Moscow. Dinner and overnight - train.

### 29 dec - moscow

Moscow - breakfast. Early this morning, we arrive into Moscow - the capital that spawned dozens of spy novels! Arriving around 1pm, we'll check-in. 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 - the Kremlin where we enjoy on day 8 a guided tour. 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.

### 30 dec - moscow

Moscow - breakfast. We're here in the city that kept Bond busy. Today, With our guide, we travel aboard the capital's efficient Metro system 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.

This afternoon we offer a visit to the once top secret huge Soviet Bunker - see Inside a Soviet Bunker bolt on in our brochure or on the web for details. 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, 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 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.

### 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.



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