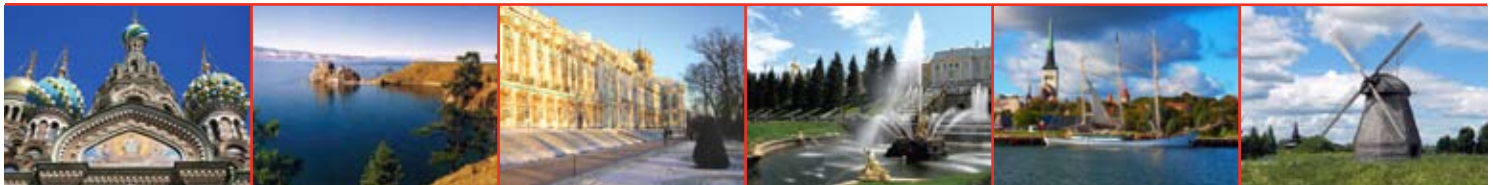


treasures of the tsars - premium tour

go guide

don't leave home without it



tour spotlight

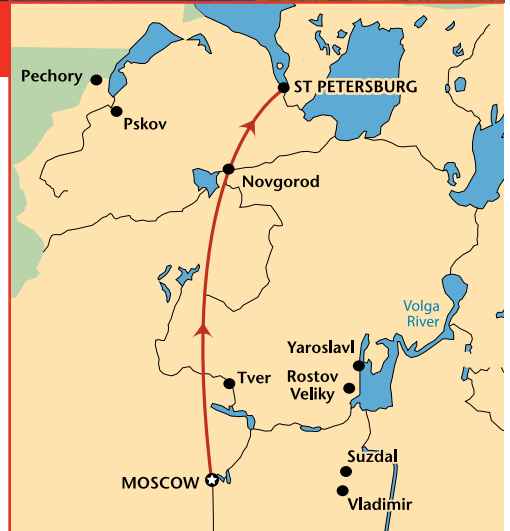
what you see

- Moscow - UNESCO-listed Red Square & Kremlin, Lenin's Mausoleum, St Basil's Cathedral
- Novgorod - ancient city by the Volkhov River, Novgorod Kremlin, cathedral and other sights
- 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 sites of St. Petersburg included on the optional pukka pass

Please Note: Entrance fees for Moscow Kremlin, Novgorod Kremlin & St Petersburg Hermitage are included. Budget approximately USD\$30 for all other entrance fees which will be payable locally.

what you get

- 7 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- 6 nights 3-4★ hotels
- 1 night train Moscow - Novgorod (4-berth sleeper cabin) incl. bed linen
- Airport arrival and departure transfer on days 1 and 8
- Guided sightseeing - Moscow city, Red Square and Kremlin, Novgorod Kremlin territory, St Petersburg city coach tour and Hermitage at Winter Palace
- Entrance fees to the Moscow Kremlin, Novgorod Kremlin territory and the Hermitage
- Russian banya (sauna) experience
- Moscow Metro travelcard 6 journeys
- Escorted by English speaking Russian tour leader for groups of 6 or more
- All relevant transfers & transportation in private A/C touring vehicles



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**
Some entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately USD \$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 150-2000

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!





treasures of the tsars : itinerary

day 1 - moscow

Saturday. Welcome to Russia and the start of your holiday! Arrival transfer from the airport to hotel 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 - 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 holding a visible on the go sign. 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.

day 2 - the mighty kremlin

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. The city is the barometer and epicentre of the changes sweeping through Russia. 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'll ride the capital's efficient Metro to Red Square. In Red Square, feast your eyes on the wildly coloured turban domed St Basil's Cathedral - an enduring Russian symbol. We visit the mighty Kremlin, where we undertake a guided walk through the grounds and 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. Visit St Basil's Cathedral, spend some time shopping in the illustrious GUM department store or opt to visit 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 big bags/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).

day 3 - red square

Moscow - breakfast. We can return to Red Square and if open, we can see the eerie Lenin Mausoleum where the grandfather of Russian Communism - Lenin still lies in state. Or consider taking a journey on the Stalinist-era Metro, to view some of the gold gilded frescoes that adorn many of the circle line stations. Tonight we travel to Novgorod by comfortable overnight sleeper train. Overnight - train.

day 4 - novgorod & banya

Novgorod - breakfast. Novgorod is one of Russia's oldest cities, located within reach of the Volkhov river and Lake Ilmen. A tour of Novgorod takes in the riverside fortified kremlin, cathedral and other sights. Steaming up at a local Banya we enjoy a sauna, lunch and a sip of vodka. Later we travel to St Petersburg by coach, arriving later evening. Lunch and overnight - St Petersburg

day 5 - st petersburg

St Petersburg - breakfast. Founded by Peter the Great, grandiose St Petersburg is designed around an intrinsic network of canals and rivers. Known as the cradle of Revolution, in the 20th century the city underwent three revolutions and a 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.

Today we embark upon a coach tour of the city, driving along Nevsky Prospekt, and Admiralty End, with stops at the Church on Spilled Blood and The Bronze Horseman. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure exploring this great city. Overnight- St Petersburg

day 6 - optional pukka pass

St Petersburg - breakfast. Free day. If you purchase the pukka pass, day 6 will include additional guided sightseeing inclusive of transport. Touring will include Peter & Paul Fortress (where the city began), St Isaac's Cathedral (the world's biggest) and 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 (or Pavlosk Palace on winter tours if Catherine Palace is closed). Professional guided commentary and Russian lunch.

Peter and Paul Fortress was built on the orders of Peter the Great. At one time a gruesome prison, within the compound is SS Peter and Paul Cathedral - housing the tombs of the Romanov monarchs. St Isaac's Cathedral is the world's largest cathedral and the construction was a colossal engineering feat. Thousands of wood piles were sunk into the city's marshy ground to support its weight of 300,000 tonnes! From the dome are panoramic views that sweep across the city. The lavish imperial palace at Tsarskoe Selo was designed for Tsarina Elizabeth, who named it Catherine Palace in honour of her mum, Catherine I. The Amber Room is a stunning drawcard. Peterhof on the Gulf of Finland is Russia's 'Versailles' and popular in summer with its lavish gold fountains - the centre piece of which is the 'Grand Cascade' are amazing. Overnight - St Petersburg.

day 7 - the hermitage

St Petersburg - breakfast. Today 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 rest of the day is free to do St Pete's your way. Overnight - St Petersburg.

day 8 - st petersburg

Saturday. St Petersburg - breakfast. Hotel checkout. Last minute Russia souvenir shopping and sightseeing, if your flight schedule permits. Later - departure transfer to St Petersburg Pulkovo airport.

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 throughout Russia vary greatly and cannot be compared to hotels of a similar standard in Western Europe or, and in particular, the United States.

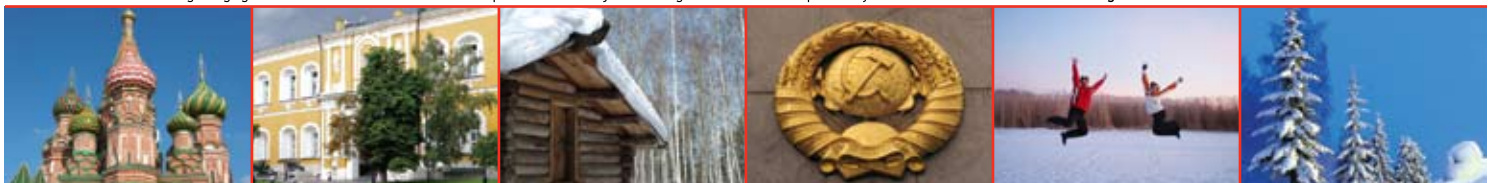
Russia is suffering from a severe shortage of quality 3 star hotels. Tourism is relatively new to the land, resulting in demand for hotels far outweighing the supply. With demand being high, hoteliers have unified with massive price increases, yet continue to paint a rose coloured picture as to what 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\$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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updated August 2010