

vodka on ice

go guide

don't leave home without it



tour spotlight

what you see

- St Petersburg - UNESCO-listed city area - Nevsky Prospekt, Museum and University districts, 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
- Ancient city of Pskov • Pechory Monastery
- 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\$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, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- 7 nights 3 ★ hotels
- 1 night train Pskov - Moscow (open sleeper cabin including bed linen)
Upgrade available!
- Airport arrival transfer on day one
- Guided sightseeing - St Petersburg city tour, Hermitage at Winter Palace, Pskov, Pechory, Moscow city tour and Kremlin
- Russian banya (sauna) experience
- Moscow Metro travel card - 6 journeys
- Escorted by English speaking Russian tour leader for groups of 6 or more
- 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 \$50-70
- **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!





vodka on ice: itinerary

day 1 - st petersburg

Saturday. 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.

day 2 - 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. 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.

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. The rest 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. This afternoon 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. Overnight - St Petersburg.

day 3 - free time to explore

St Petersburg - breakfast. Free day. If you purchase the pukka pass, you will enjoy additional guided sightseeing today, inclusive of transport. The timetable of events will incorporate touring of Peter and Paul Fortress (where the city began), St Isaac's Cathedral (the world's biggest) and Catherine Palace at Tsarskoe Selo (or Pavlosk Palace if Catherine Palace is closed). Professional guided commentary and a Russian lunch.

Peter and Paul Fortress, built on the orders of Peter the Great was at one time a gruesome prison. On the grounds is SS Peter and Paul Cathedral - housing tombs of the Romanov dynasty. St Isaac's Cathedral is one of the world's largest. 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. Overnight - St Petersburg

day 4 - st pete's your way

St Petersburg - Pskov - breakfast. Last day in St Pete's before we head away to Pskov. Enjoy a day at leisure exploring St Petersburg. Congregating back at the hotel later at an agreed time, we gather our bags and travel to the railway station for our train journey to Pskov. Arriving tonight, we enjoy a late dinner. Dinner & overnight - Pskov.

day 5 - pskov & russian sauna

Pskov - breakfast. Richly historical Pskov is built around a riverside Kremlin with a beautiful cathedral. This morning, we'll enjoy a tour of historical Pskov. Then, steamy windows at a local Russian banya (sauna), before later enjoying a vodka and lunch. Tonight, we enjoy dinner at the hotel. Lunch, dinner & overnight - Pskov.

day 6 - pechory monastery

Pskov - Moscow - breakfast. Today, a short drive takes us to tranquil Pechory Monastery, founded in 1473. A sea of colours and architectural styles prevail in the grounds of this still-working cloister, where if monastic law permits, we can explore the fascinating burial caves where some 10,000 souls rest. After lunch, we have some alpine fun - ice-skating on a frozen lake or cross-country skiing. *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, then the itinerary may alter slightly. Tonight we travel to Moscow by overnight sleeper train. Lunch and overnight - sleeper train.

day 7 - red square

Moscow - breakfast. We're here in the city that kept Bond

busy. Today, we'll ride the capital's Stalinist designed 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. Remains of day free. 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, 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 8 - moscow

Moscow - breakfast. Today, we head into Red Square where, if open, we can pay our respects for free to Lenin (the father of Communism) at his eerie mausoleum. We continue inside the Kremlin where we enjoy a guided walk through the grounds where we'll see numerous government buildings, gold-domed cathedrals and the tsar bell. The remainder of the day is free. Famous Gorky Park with its winter ice rink where cheap skates can be hired and neighbouring Sculpture Park - home to redundant statues from Russia's Communist era are worth a visit if you are interested. Overnight - Moscow.

day 9 - moscow

Sunday. Moscow - breakfast. Hotel checkout at 12 noon.

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

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 Rubles. 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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