

# go guide



## tour spotlight

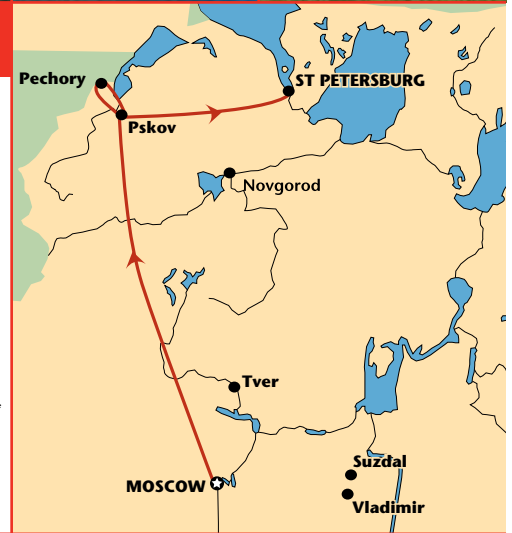
### what you see

- Moscow - UNESCO-listed Red Square, Kremlin, Lenin's Mausoleum, St Basil's Cathedral
- Pskov - ancient town near Estonian border
- Pechory Monastery
- St Petersburg - UNESCO-listed city area - Nevsky Prospekt, Museum and University Districts, Church on Spilled Blood, The Bronze Horseman, Admiralty Square, St Petersburg Hermitage at the Winter Palace
- Other sites of St. Petersburg included on the optional pukka pass

Note: Entrance fees are not included. Budget approx USD\$60. This amount will include entrance fees to the Moscow Kremlin, St Pete's Hermitage and other sites visited on your tour.

### what you get

- 8 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
- 7 nights 3 ★ hotels
- 1 night train Moscow - Pskov (open sleeper cabin) including bed linen. Upgrade available!
- Airport arrival transfer on day 1
- Guided sightseeing - Moscow city and Kremlin, Pskov, Pechory, St Petersburg city coach tour, Hermitage at Winter Palace
- Russian banya (sauna) experience
- Winter pursuits - ice skating, cross-country skiing in Pskov\*
- Moscow Metro travelcard (6 journeys/rides)
- Specialist Russian guides at local sights
- Relevant transfers on tour
- Russian tour leader for groups of 6 or more



## 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?

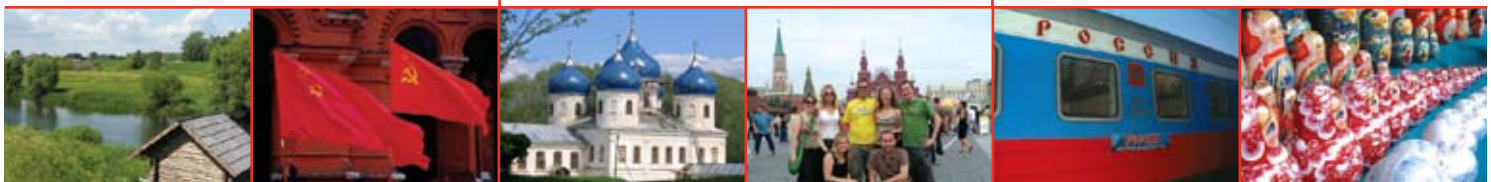
- **ENTRANCE FEES**  
Entrance fees are not included in your tour. Please budget approximately USD \$50-70
- **TIPPING**  
In better restaurants tip 10% if you are pleased with the food/service. If you would like to express your thanks to your driver, local guide or tour leader, we would suggest approx 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!





# xmas, kremlins & tsars: itinerary

## 20 dec - moscow

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 - 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. 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.

## 21 dec - the 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. Moscow is a city where ancient Russia meets the Soviet Union and capitalism-boldly illustrated by the golden onion domes of the Kremlin's Orthodox Churches which peer out past Lenin's austere red granite mausoleum and over the massive GUM shopping complex-home to Barbie and Levi jeans. The city is the barometer and epicentre of the changes sweeping through Russia. The city's vitality, chaos and extremes are a direct result of the collapse of Communism and the efforts of its some 9 million citizens to reinvent their lives.

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. 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 later enjoy 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 where the grandfather of Russian Communism - Vladimir Lenin still lies in state.

We continue inside the Kremlin where we undertake a guided walk through the grounds where we'll 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 for you to explore more of Moscow. 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 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).

## 22 dec - explore moscow

Moscow - breakfast. A free day to enjoy Moscow your way. Consider heading back to red Square for a spot of shopping in the exclusive GUM department store or explore St Basil's. The Metro is the easiest way to get around. Overnight - Moscow.

## 23 dec - bolt on space program

Moscow - Pskov - breakfast. Free day. Pulsating neons and billboard hoardings are proof Moscow has embraced capitalism. However, its plentiful museums, Stalinist-era Metro, stately buildings and traditions ensure Moscow holds onto it's rich heritage. Tonight, we travel to Pskov. Overnight - sleeper train.

## 24 dec - christmas eve

Pskov region - breakfast. Arrival at Pskov and check-in to hotel. With the Estonian border just 30km away, richly historical Pskov has played host to a stream of Baltic invaders for 700 years. A tour of Pskov takes in the riverside fortified kremlin, cathedral and other sights. Steaming up at a local Russian banya (sauna) will work our appetites up for a vodka and lunch. Later, we enjoy dinner in a local restaurant. Celebrate Xmas Eve with a drink or two. Cheers! Lunch, dinner & overnight - Pskov.

## 25 dec - christmas day

Pskov - St Petersburg - breakfast. Pskov area - St Petersburg - breakfast. Good tidings people! This morning, a short drive brings us to the beautiful 14th century Pechory Monastery, where we explore the peaceful grounds and if monastic law permits, an exploration of the burial caves of this fascinating and still-working cloister. Later we enjoy a day of alpine fun - ice-skating on the frozen lake or cross-country skiing with lunch. There are no mountains in the region, so a special type of ski is used for cross-country. Evening coach to St Petersburg. Please note that if the weather is inclement, the itinerary may alter slightly. Lunch & overnight - St Petersburg.

## 26 dec - 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. Spend the day independently exploring the city, or if you purchase the pukka pass, enjoy additional guided sightseeing today, inclusive of transport. Touring will include 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. Overnight - St Petersburg.

## 27 dec - the hermitage

St Petersburg - breakfast. One of the most famous museums in the world, the Hermitage has a vast collection occupying a grand ensemble of buildings 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. Today enjoy a guided tour of The Hermitage and a coach city tour. Overnight - St Petersburg.

## 28 dec - st petersburg

St Petersburg - breakfast. Tour ends after checkout.

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 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.



68 north end road, west kensington, london, W14 9EP • 020 7371 1113 • info@onthegotours.com  
3/690 brunswick street, new farm, brisbane, QLD, australia 4005 • 1300 855 684 • aus-info@onthegotours.com

updated August 2010