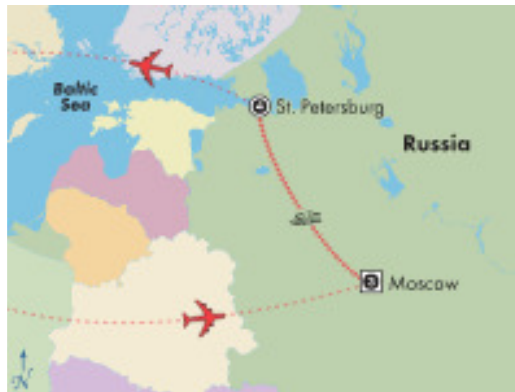


9 Day St. Petersburg & Russia

June to October 2024

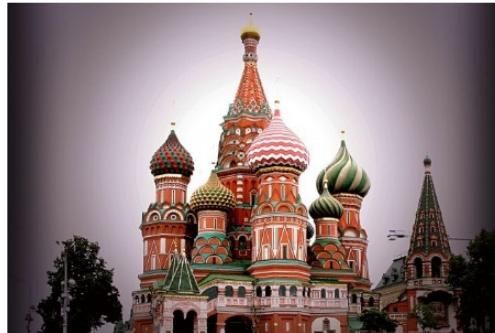
From \$2949*pp Double Air Included

*Call for specific dates and rates from your air city



DAY 1, Thursday - Depart for Russia

Depart for Russia



DAY 2, Friday - Arrive in Moscow

Arrive in Moscow, fabled capital of Russia; transfer to your hotel. Time to rest and relax, or begin your independent discovery of this cosmopolitan city. Tonight, attend an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager on the fascinating journey that awaits you in Russia at approximately 7 pm. Begin with a champagne toast to celebrate your arrival in Moscow, followed by a Welcome Dinner with your fellow travelers. We recommend that you select flights which arrive in your destination no later than 5 pm or earlier, if possible

Overnight: Moscow

Meals: Dinner



DAY 3, Saturday - The Kremlin, Armory Museum, Arbat Street

Today's exploration of Moscow, the symbolic heart, and soul of Russia, begins at the massive red walls of the Kremlin, a former residence of Russian Czars. View Czar Cannon, the 16th-century Czar Bell and Cathedral Square, home to three of Moscow's most elaborate cathedrals, enter one of them to admire the ornate interior and beautiful icons. Visit the astonishing Armory Museum with its Imperial Russian treasures including royal crowns, embossed carriages, and the extraordinary jeweled Faberge Eggs. Then, stroll through the lovely Alexander Gardens with its obelisk dedicated to the Romanovs and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with its eternal flame. On to historic Red Square, dominated by Lenin's Tomb and colorful St. Basil's Cathedral, one of the world's most magnificent Russian Orthodox structures. Pass the State History Museum en route to GUM, a store that could easily be confused with a palace. Here, time to shop and enjoy lunch on your own. Continue via the imposing Christ the Savior Cathedral on the northern bank of the Moskva River and the striking red and white baroque Novodevichy Convent. Afterward, on to Arbat Street, the humming artisan center of the city with time to explore or just sip Russian tea at an outdoor café. This evening, perhaps join the crowds at lively Tverskaya Street or visit the observation platform at Sparrow Hills to see panoramic views of the illuminated city

Overnight: Moscow

Meals: Breakfast



DAY 4, Sunday - Tretyakov State Gallery

This morning, visit the Tretyakov State Gallery, known for its finest collection of Russian art and one of the greatest art museums in the world. The Gallery was founded in 1856 by a Moscow merchant and patron of the arts Pavel Tretyakov, to display works of Russian artists. The collection contains more than 150,000 works of art, from the 10th to the end of the 19th century. View exquisite Russian icons, paintings, and sculptures, including works by Brullov, Kiprensky, Karavak, Fedotov, Repin and many others. Lunch is at a local restaurant. The afternoon is at leisure for individual pursuits. In the evening, become a "Moscovite" on this *optional* Metro & Moscow by night tour, when you ride a few stops on the unique subway, with its lavishly decorated stations in marble, mosaics, chandeliers, and

statues. Enjoy the glitter of the city's lights before returning to the hotel

Optional: Metro & Moscow by Night (PM)

Overnight: Moscow

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



DAY 5, Monday - High Speed Train to St. Petersburg

At Moscow's railway station, board the high speed train that takes you to St. Petersburg, arriving in the afternoon. Your first sight of this glorious city, former capital of the Romanov Czars, will indeed be memorable. On the way from the railway station join your fellow travelers at the "Welcome to St. Petersburg" Dinner held at a popular restaurant near the Mariinsky Theater. Feast on traditional Russian Borscht, fresh-baked cakes, legendary Chicken Kiev and other Russian favorites, topped off by a traditional shot of vodka

Overnight: St. Petersburg

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 6, Tuesday - Tour of St. Petersburg, the "Venice of the North"

There are few cities that can match the grace and beauty of St. Petersburg, considered by many to be one of the world's grandest cities. When Peter the Great founded the city in 1703, he hired Europe's best architects, craftsmen, and artists to build and decorate the city. Spread over 100 islands linked by over 600 bridges, it is known as the "Venice of the North". Your daylong tour begins with a drive past monumental St. Isaac's Cathedral, whose construction took more than 40 years, and the magnificent neoclassical Mariinsky Palace. Drive along the Neva embankment to view the imposing Bronze Horseman the

famous monument to Peter the Great, the Admiralty, Palace Square and the remarkable Winter Palace and Hermitage Museum. Visit the Peter and Paul Fortress, housing the crypts of several Russian Czars before driving past the magnificent Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood, a superb example of Russian architecture and St. Michael's Castle, with its mysterious past. End the day with a drive along Nevsky Prospect, the main avenue of the city adorned with beautiful buildings, decorated squares, and ornate bridges. Evening on your own to dine at a charming restaurant and savor the delicious food - be sure to try *blinis*, a Russian favorite. Tonight, don't miss the *optional* Russian Folklore Evening, one of the best folklore programs in St. Petersburg including dances, songs, instruments and costumes from all over Russia along with canapes and champagne during intermission

Optional: Russian Folklore Evening (PM)

Overnight: St. Petersburg

Meals: Breakfast



DAY 7, Wednesday - Tour the Hermitage Museum

An exciting and inspiring day. You'll be dazzled on the visit to the renowned Hermitage Museum, housing the largest and richest collection of Western art. Originally the personal gallery of Catherine the Great, the vast assemblage of art spans six buildings including the Winter Palace. Astounding priceless masterpieces by Michelangelo, da Vinci, Picasso, Raphael, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Monet, and more are displayed amid the fittingly opulent architectural design of the museum. As the collection is housed in the lavishly decorated Winter Palace, you'll also see some of the historic rooms where Russian royalty once lived. Linger at the museum, spend the rest of the day exploring the city on your own, or participate in the *optional** tour to Catherine's Palace at Pushkin, the splendid country palace of the Czars nestled in a beautiful park setting. This royal palace, with its magnificent blend of architecture and sumptuous furnishings, is distinguished by its priceless Amber Room. Then, join the *optional* cruise that takes you on the city's rivers and canals offering panoramic views of sparkling St. Petersburg at night

**Be advised that you might not be able to book this optional tour locally, due to certain restrictions regarding Catherine's Palace*

***If booking both Catherine Palace & Cruise on the Rivers and Canals optional tours, please keep in mind that you may have limited time in between for dinner*

Optional: Catherine's Palace at Pushkin (PM)

Optional: Evening Canal Cruise (PM)

Overnight: St. Petersburg

Meals: Breakfast



DAY 8, Thursday - Yusupov Palace, Farewell Dinner

Enjoy the morning at leisure or join the *optional* tour to Peterhof (formerly called Petrodvorets), the amazing Summer Palace of Peter the Great with its gorgeous landscaped grounds and fountains overlooking the Gulf of Finland, referred to as the "Russian Versailles". In the afternoon, visit the Yusupov Palace, once the home of one of the wealthiest and most distinguished noble families in the 19th century. The opulent and exquisitely decorated interior has been totally recreated and now functions as a museum, a theater and the St. Petersburg Palace of Culture. This palace rivals those owned by the Romanovs, with a history that is just as mysterious. Time on your own for independent explorations. On your last night in Russia, share wonderful memories of your journey at the Farewell Dinner at a classical Russian restaurant

Optional: Peterhof Tour (AM)

Overnight: St. Petersburg

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 9, Friday - Depart Russia

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

Meals: Breakfast

Escorted Package Includes

- Flights New York-Moscow, St. Petersburg-New York
Other departure cities available. Click on date of departure for selection and prices
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
- 7 nights First Class accommodations
 - 3 nights Moscow
 - 4 nights St. Petersburg
- Hotel portorage
- All transfers included only with airfare purchase on package arrival & departure dates†
- High Speed Train Moscow-St. Petersburg Standard Class
- 11 meals: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Services of local guides in Moscow & St. Petersburg
- Entrance fees per itinerary

Special Features

- Visit the astonishing Armory Museum with its Imperial Russian treasures including the extraordinary jeweled Faberge Eggs
- Travel to the Tretyakovsky State Gallery, known for its finest collection of Russian art and one of the greatest art museums in the world
- Visit the Peter and Paul Fortress in glorious St. Petersburg, housing the crypts of many Russian Czars
- An extraordinary visit to the renowned Hermitage Museum, housing the largest and richest collection of Western art
- Tour the opulent 19th century Yusupov Palace, once home of one of the wealthiest and most distinguished noble families in St. Petersburg

†Transfers are available for purchase for land only or on alternative flight dates

Is This Trip Right for You?

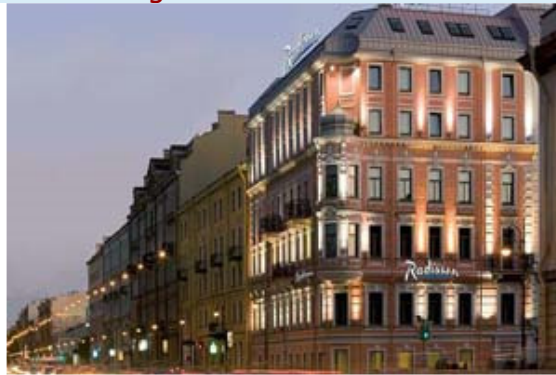
This active program covers a good amount of ground each day. Expect from two to three hours walking on some touring days, and a four and a half hour high speed train ride from Moscow to St. Petersburg. The pace is moderate, however you will encounter some uneven surfaces, stairs, and steps.

Courtyard Moscow City Center, Moscow



This first class hotel is located in downtown Moscow.

Radisson Sonya Hotel, St. Petersburg



This first class hotel is located in the St. Petersburg City Center, within walking distance of various sites and attractions.

Book your Optional Tours before you travel. See more, save time, save money.

- Tours purchased while travelling may cost an extra 10% or more
- Tours often sell out. Avoid disappointment
- Save your cash. Credit card processing may not be possible locally
- Travel insurance only covers services purchased prior to departure
- Book Online or call to book these tours up to 1 week before your departure
- The day the optionals operate varies by the day of the week

Metro & Red Square by Night

No visit of Moscow is complete without a tour of its elegant Subway Stations! We will show you some of the most beautiful stations decorated with marble, brightly colored stained glass, mosaics and chandeliers. Later stroll in Red Square, passing the tomb of Lenin and St. Basil's Cathedral.

Pick-up details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 3 hours.

Day #4

01 Jan 2021 - 31 Dec 2022

\$45.00



Russian Folklore Evening

A chance to attend one of the best Russian Folklore programs in St. Petersburg. The show includes dances, songs, instruments and costumes from around Russia, during the intermission canapés, Russian champagne and vodka are sampled. Memorable experience!

Pick-up details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 1.45 hours.

Day #6

01 Jan 2021 - 31 Dec 2022

\$91.00



Catherine Palace

In the little town of Pushkin, the home of Russia's last czar, is a magnificent Palace. It was the favorite palace of Catherine the Great, and our guided tour shows us this restored palace at its most glittering and golden best.

Pick-up details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 4 hours.

Day #7

01 Jan 2021 - 31 Dec 2021

\$71.00



Evening Canal Cruise

An evening cruise through the canals and River Neva transforms the city into a magical place that has inspired generations of artists. You will be offered champagne, caviar and vodka on board. Enjoy the sights of this classical city from a different perspective.

Pick-up details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 1 hour.

Day #7

01 Jan 2021 - 31 Dec 2022

\$75.00



Peterhof Tour

The former summer Residence of Czar Peter the Great was his Russian recreation of Versailles. It is famed for its palaces, extensive gardens, terraces of gilded statues and fountain cascades on the Gulf of Finland. Take a tour of the main palace during your visit.

Pick-up details to be advised locally. Approximate tour duration is 4 hours.

Day #8

01 Nov 2020 - 31 Dec 2022

\$75.00



For More Information and Reservations:

Earl Pike

Group TravelMasters

1-888-293-3330

Or email: earl@grouptravelmasters.com