

Treasures of Russia

Independent tour

This itinerary offers the very best of Russia- its majestic imperial capitals and rural tranquility of its country towns. The pace is unhurried, allowing ample free time, and the itinerary is flexible and can be tailored to your own requirements.

11 days / 10 nights

Day 1: St Petersburg

Arrive St Petersburg. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight St Petersburg.

Day 2: St Petersburg

Your city tour this morning introduces you to the major sights. Drive along fashionable Nevsky Prospekt, the main thoroughfare, lined with 18th century palaces, elegant shops and restaurants. Highlights include Palace Square, the Summer Gardens and Kazan Cathedral. Continue with a visit to Peter and Paul Fortress, the foundation site of St Petersburg and burial place of the Romanov dynasty. This afternoon visit the State Hermitage Museum, boasting a collection of more than 3 million items. Overnight St Petersburg. **B**

Day 3: St Petersburg

After breakfast, choose from two excursions – Peterhof on the Gulf of Finland, or head south to the town of Pushkin, known as Tsars' Village until the Revolution in 1917. Peterhof was commissioned by Peter the Great to rival Versailles. In summer months the vast gardens feature spectacular cascading fountains and golden statues. At Pushkin, the summer residence of the tsars from the beginning of the 19th century to 1917, visit Catherine's Palace, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture housing the famous "Amber Room". Afternoon free. Overnight St Petersburg. **B**

Day 4: St Petersburg to Novgorod

Morning at leisure. Late afternoon departure by rail for your 3 hour trip to Novgorod. Overnight Novgorod. **B**



Pushkin, Catherine's Palace

Day 5: Novgorod to Moscow

Your morning city tour will acquaint you with Novgorod's highlights, including St Sophia's Cathedral, the oldest church in Russia, Yaroslav's Court and the functioning Yuriev Monastery. Enjoy a relaxing lunch at "Detinets" restaurant in the Kremlin walls with the remainder of the afternoon free. Late evening departure by rail for your overnight trip to Moscow. **BL**

Day 6: Moscow

Early morning arrival into Moscow, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel for breakfast. This morning you have a city tour of Russia's dynamic capital. Highlights include Red Square, with St Basil's Cathedral, Theatre Square featuring the Bolshoi Theatre and a panoramic view of the city from Sparrow Hills. Continue with a visit to the amazing Moscow metro with its unique stations featuring marble, mosaic, statues and chandeliers. This afternoon's excursion takes you to the 16th century Novodevichi Convent and the fascinating cemetery adjoining, where some of Russia's most significant cultural and political figures are buried. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 7: Moscow

After breakfast you have a tour of the Kremlin grounds and one of the Kremlin cathedrals. Visit the State Armoury Museum, a treasury of the Tsars' jewels, coronation robes, carriages, Faberge eggs and more. This afternoon is free for independent exploring. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 8: Moscow to Vladimir & Suzdal

This morning depart by car for your 4-hour trip to Vladimir. After lunch in a local restaurant, you have a sightseeing tour of Vladimir. Continue with a short drive to Suzdal. Overnight Suzdal. **BL**

Inclusions

- ① 9 nights accommodation in hotel category of your choice with breakfast and two lunches
- ① 2nd class day rail St Petersburg-Novgorod (sitting class)
- ① 1st class overnight rail Novgorod-Moscow (2 berth sleeper)
- ① Transportation by car Moscow-Vladimir-Suzdal-Vladimir
- ① 2nd class rail Vladimir-Moscow
- ① Arrival/departures transfers by car
- ① Comprehensive sightseeing as specified with local English-speaking guides



Kremlin, faceted chamber



Day 9: Suzdal

Morning walking tour of Suzdal, one of the best-preserved and prettiest towns in Russia. Visit the 11th century Kremlin, 14th century Cathedral of the Nativity and museum of wooden architecture. Afternoon at leisure to wander through this charming country town with its traditional wooden houses and whitewashed churches. Overnight Suzdal. **B**

Day 10: Suzdal to Moscow

After breakfast you will be transferred by car to Vladimir to catch your late morning train for your 3 hour journey to Moscow. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 11: Moscow.

Tour services end after breakfast with a transfer to the airport or rail station. **B**

Your hotels

★★★

- Ⓐ ST PETERSBURG – Asteria
- Ⓐ NOVGOROD – Volkhov
- Ⓐ MOSCOW – Cosmos (business room)
- Ⓐ SUZDAL – Sokol

★★★★

- Ⓐ ST PETERSBURG – Pushka Inn
- Ⓐ NOVGOROD – Beresta
- Ⓐ MOSCOW – Marriott Tverskaya
- Ⓐ SUZDAL – Pushkarskaya Sloboda (superior room)

★★★★★

- Ⓐ ST PETERSBURG – Astoria
- Ⓐ NOVGOROD – Beresta (4-star)
- Ⓐ MOSCOW – National
- Ⓐ SUZDAL – Nikolaevsky Posad

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.

Daily departures Jan-Dec 2010. Higher prices may apply during trade fairs, special events and overlapping seasons.

Season	Twn	Sgl
3-STAR		
1 Jan-30 Apr, 1 Oct-31 Dec	2789	4604
1-21 May, 1 Jul-30 Sep	2874	4793
22 May-30 Jun	2975	4942
4-STAR		
1 Jan-30 Apr, 1 Nov-31 Dec	3230	5530
1-31 May, 1 Jul-31 Oct	3784	6637
5-STAR		
1 Jan-31 Mar, 24 Oct-31 Dec	3974	6186
1 Apr-23 Oct	4799	7603