Sightseeing Tours 2020
St Petersburg, Moscow, the Golden Ring
the Baltics and Georgia
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e-mail: reservations@openrussiatours.com : web: www.openrussiatours.com
**Make the most of your visit to St Petersburg and Moscow**

To help you make the best of your visit to Russia, we offer some of the best tour services available, with expert guides and tour itineraries that can be customised to suit your plans. If you are interested in the great variety of art and depth of history and culture that Russia offers, we offer the highest quality cultural, literary and art tours available, led by experts with specialist knowledge, refined from many years of experience.

Our expert guides are completely fluent in English (and other languages) and able to speak authoritatively and in depth about Russia’s great literary and art history. We are also offer exclusive, behind the scenes access to the major art galleries and ballet theatres.

**Visa Support**

Open Russia Tours has a special reference number and accreditation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and can provide your Visa Invitation Letter which enables you to obtain a visa to enter Russian Federation.

**Planning your tours**

Before your visit, we will discuss your preferences and help you to fine-tune your personal itinerary. We can combine several mini tours for your visit, if you wish, organising city tours together with visits to the ballet, expert-led museum tours, insights into Russian life tours and much more. We are also happy to provide visa support, arrange transfers and train tickets, recommend our current favourite restaurants and hotels in St. Petersburg, Moscow and other cities suiting your taste and your budget.

We’ve been leading tours in Russia for many years, and believe that we now offer the most informative and enjoyable sightseeing tours available. If you have your own plans, we can help you tailor a program to suit, for groups of any size.

**Hotel Bookings**

We can organise your hotel bookings whether you’re travelling alone, as a couple or family, or as part of a larger group. If you’d prefer to book directly, we're just as happy to offer our tour services alone.

**Group and VIP Services**

All of our tours are designed to the highest standard, but we also offer an exclusive range of VIP and Luxury Travel services to suit the most discerning traveller and entourage. We have created bespoke tours for the rich and famous as well as custom tours for company incentive travel schemes, conference delegates, international companies, museums and other cultural organisations from around the world.

**Art and Museum Tours**

In the field of art tours, we are second to none. Our team includes experts and specialists who can guide around, explain and discuss the vast collections of the famous Hermitage Museum. We offer expert tours, led by academics and official museum curators, of the vast Hermitage Collection, including areas normally hidden from public view. If you like, we can also arrange Curator-led tours of St Petersburg’s other major galleries and museums. If you need a custom tour, personalised to your taste and interests, we can arrange access and provide a specialist and expert guide.

**Literature and Russian Life Tours**

If you are interested in literature, try our Pushkin tour, led by one of the foremost experts on his work - or you could get behind the scenes with Dostoyevsky, visit his apartment and follow the trail set out in his novel 'Crime and Punishment'. If you would like to gain insight into the Russian character, we offer a dacha tour, tea with a Russian family and an evening tour of St. Petersburg’s favourite venues and nightspots.

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email: reservations@openrussiatours.com  :  web: www.openrussiatours.com
Whatever your interest in Russia - and whatever your depth of interest, we can bring together a huge range of expertise and skill to ensure that you get the most from your visit to one of the great centres of world heritage. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

**Best time to travel**

November–January: low budget

February–March: experience Russian winter: dry and snowy

April–early May: spring, early May parades and celebrations

May–July: high season, white nights in St. Petersburg

August: sweet weather, less crowded

September–October: Indian summer, best time in the parks
St Petersburg introduces e-visas

Starting October 1, 2019, nationals of 53 foreign countries (see the list of countries at https://electronic-visa.kdmid.ru/spb_country_en.html) can visit St. Petersburg and its Region by e-visa, with no consular fees.

Applicants need to fill out a form on the website of the consular department of the Russian Foreign Ministry (https://electronic-visa.kdmid.ru) and upload a photograph. The application can be made no later than four and no earlier than 20 days before the expected date of entry.

The visa is valid for stays in St Petersburg its Region for up to eight days. Entry is granted through air, naval, automobile, and pedestrian checkpoints (see the list of checkpoints at https://electronic-visa.kdmid.ru/spb_checkpoint_en.html).

PLEASE NOTE: Entry and exit on an e-visa by means of rail transport is currently unavailable.

A similar scheme is in operation for Vladivostok and airports across the whole of Russia's Far Eastern Federal District as well as for Kaliningrad and Kaliningrad Region.

How to avoid errors with your e-visa

Please be aware that E-visas issued by the Russian Federation may not be accepted for travel in case of any mismatch between your passport and E-visa data.

Before the flight please make sure to check the following on your E-visa:

- Your passport number is correct
- Your full name is populated (including all your given names) and there is no misspelling in it
- Only Latin alphabet characters are used, special national characters (such as Ñ, É, &Ucird; or Ç) are not accepted
- Your date of birth is correct.

We advise to check the 'machine-readable line' of your passport that you will find at the bottom of the same page and make sure all details are identical to the data on your E-visa, including your name and passport number.

For example, if the names in the visual area of the passport are "Séro Tú" then you are required to use names from the machine-readable line "Seo Tuerre".

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For further information please visit https://evisa.kdmid.ru/
St Petersburg, Long Weekend Express Tour

Duration: 4 days / 3 nights - Friday arrival, Monday return

Day 1 – Friday Arrival and transfer
St Petersburg welcomes you. This tour is perfect for travellers with only a few days in St Petersburg. We'll provide the best guides, arrange express, provide no-queue entrance to museums and do our best to make your St Petersburg long week-end most enjoyable.

At the airport arrival hall, your guide and your private driver will meet you and transfer to your hotel in the center of St Petersburg. The drive from the airport to the heart of the city is interesting architecturally and will be narrated by your guide en route. In the evening you can rest, take a walk or go out for dinner in one of the nearby restaurants (we will be happy to provide recommendations).

Day 2 - Saturday Peter and Paul's Fortress, St. Isaac's Cathedral, Hermitage Museum
Full day sightseeing / guide 8 hours, car 4 hours

09:30 The city-tour (4 hours) will give you an overview of the history and geography of St Petersburg St Petersburg, the UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the world’s most amazing travel destinations. You'll observe: the Mariinsky Theater, the Hermitage, the Winter Palace, the Palace Square, the Spit of Vasilievsky Island, the Bronze Horseman Statue, Peter’s Log Cabin, Cruiser Aurora, Smolny Convent, the Nevsky Prospect, the Square of Arts and more. The tour also takes you inside Peter-and-Paul Fortress and St. Isaac’s Cathedral.

The Peter-and-Paul Fortress marks the founding of the city by Peter the Great in 1703. Inside stands the Cathedral of Peter-and-Paul (1714) where the Romanovs from Peter the Great onwards are buried. In July 1998 the last Tsar, Nickolas II, with most of his family, were finally laid to rest here. Started as a citadel to defend the city from sea invasions, the Fortress has served many other roles as well. It was later converted into a prison for political dissidents before being harnessed by the Bolsheviks as a museum.

The majestic St. Isaac's is one of the World's largest and most opulent domed cathedrals. It took 40 years to construct, under French-born architect Auguste de Montferrand’s direction, from 1818 to 1858. The neoclassical exterior of St. Isaac's barely hints at the riotously rich interior, decorated with various sorts of marble, semiprecious stones and mosaics. The iconostasis is framed by ten malachite and two lapis lazuli columns. The Cathedral's doors are covered in reliefs, patterned after the celebrated doors of the Battistero di San Giovanni in Florence. Visitors willing to climb 300 steps will get a spectacular view of St Petersburg.

Optional: lunch in a local restaurant near Hermitage – 28 USD / 24 EUR per person

14:00 In the afternoon you’ll visit the Hermitage Museum which contains the largest art collection in the world. It takes years to see the whole of it, but under the direction of your experienced private guide you will see the best of the collection in 2 – 2.5 hours before exploring the museum on your own.

You’ll enter the Winter Palace (1762) – a gem of Russian baroque and the main residence of the Romanovs. The tour takes you to see the State rooms and art galleries of the palace, as well as other buildings of the Museum: Small Hermitage, Old Hermitage, New Hermitage and the Hermitage Theatre. Our tour will include works from some of the great masters, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Titian, Raphael, Rembrandt, Van Dyck and others, and a visit the fabulous French Impressionist collections.
After the tour you will have free time in the Hermitage, or for optionally visiting the newly renovated General Staff building across from Winter Palace (on your own and with tickets at your own cost) to see fabulous French Impressionist collections. Please note that there will be no transport provided from the Hermitage back to your hotel.

**19.30 Ballet performance** in the Hermitage Theatre

_The Hermitage Theatre (inside the Hermitage Museum) was built in 1787 as an exclusive private theatre of Catherine the Great and came to be viewed as a rare monument to Catherine’s personal tastes and affections. The semicircular auditorium decorated with color marble has only 250 seats, originally meant for aristocratic guests of the Empress._

*Mathilde Kschessinska, Anna Pavlova, and Fyodor Chaliapin were among the great artists who performed at the Hermitage Theatre for the last Russian Tsar. It was not until 1991 that performances were resumed on this stage, with the likes of Svyatoslav Richter, Mstislav Rostropovich and Yelena Obraztsova appearing as guest stars._

**Day 3 – Sunday, Pushkin & Peterhof / Pavlovsk**

_**Full day sightseeing / 8 hours with guide & car**_

**9:00** The drive to **Pushkin Town** is only 45 min, it lays through the modern districts of St Petersburg and a picturesque country-side to the hilly area originally known as Tsarskoye Selo (Village of the Tsars). The drive will be narrated by your private guide.

After a short walk through the gardens you'll enter the **Catherine Palace** - the summer residence of the Tsars.

_The grandiose Catherine palace is the last great Baroque Palace in Europe (1756) with a famous undulating façade, dazzling Ballroom, Rococo interiors, and the legendary Amber Room. At the end of the 18th century it was Catherine the Great who invited the British architect Charles Cameron to work on the palace and converted the garden into an elaborate English park, where Cameron created his masterpiece – the Cameron gallery._

**Optional:** Lunch in ‘Admiralty’ restaurant, a traditional Russian restaurant that features excellent Russian food and drink including vodka and wine – 32 USD / 28 EUR per person.

In the afternoon, you'll drive (40 min) to **Petershof** - 'Russian Versailles', the most impressive and ornate country residence of the Romanovs built by Peter the Great in 1706-1723 on the coast of the Gulf of Finland. Peterhof is world famous for its palaces, gardens and the largest functioning 18th century fountain complex with 150 gilded fountains run by gravity. You'll walk through the delightful formal gardens, past cascades and fountains, and visit the original home for Peter I, the Monplaisir Palace - a charming baroque mansion on the shore of the Gulf of Finland that demonstrates the Tsar's exquisite and restrained taste.

*In the low-season (October - May), when the fountains are turned off in Peterhof, this tour is re-placed with the trip to Pavlovsk - an architectural jewel dating from 1786, built by the Scottish architect Charles Cameron for Grand Duke Paul (who would later become Paul I). Every room of this palace is filled with superlative furniture, chandeliers, tapestries, paintings, and objects d’art exemplifying the best of 18th century Russian and European taste and craftsmanship. The park is one of the largest landscape parks not only in Russia, but in Europe._

**17:00** Return to hotel
Day 4 – Monday, Yusupov Palace & departure

4 hours sightseeing with guide & car. Transfer to the airport

10:00 In the morning morning prior the departure there will be time for exploring the most beautiful private home in St Petersburg, the Yusupov Palace, which used to belong to the Yusupov family. You’ll see the restored State Rooms, some still with their original furniture, the exquisite Rococo private theatre, and the cellars where the murder of Rasputin took place in December 1916 - the scene eerily recreated in wax.

Optional: lunch in the restaurant in town – 26 USD / 22 EUR per person

Finally, guide and driver will take you to the airport and assist with your baggage and departure.

We’re confident that you will feel enriched from your time with us in St Petersburg and hope that you return to this romantic city again!

Tour price per person

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Included

Airport transfers; Private Guide and transportation as per the programme; Express entrance tickets to the above mentioned museums; Best available tickets to the ballet performance at the Hermitage Theatre

Not Included

Airfares; Accommodation; Optional items; Meals; Theatre transfer; Porterage; Tips

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Visa Free Tours of St Petersburg

Open Russia Tours can arrange for visa-free tour programmes of St. Petersburg for Baltic cruise passengers and passengers of the cruise ferries 'Princess Maria' and 'Princess Anastasia'. Tours can be of up to 3 days, as cruise passengers are allowed a maximum of 72 hours in Russia without needing a visa.

Our 1, 2 and 3 day tour programmes provide a unique opportunity to tour the Imperial Capital of Russia and visit its palaces, museums, churches, cathedrals and historic monuments without the additional effort and expense involved in obtaining a visa. These tours provide the opportunity to explore this wonderful city and enjoy its history and culture, accompanied by an expert guide and with transportation by private car included.

Open Russia Tours is always happy to design an individual customized programme for you, based on your interests and expectations. As we have run many of these tours, however, we have included sample itineraries below. These day-tours described can be taken in any order and, if needed, modified to include your particular interests.

In order to take advantage of this visa-free opportunity, ferries passengers will need to make their hotel reservations through Open Russia Tours. A full list of hotels with prices and ratings is available upon request.

For nights spent at a hotel, we can also help arrange an evening programme for you, which might include a trip to the ballet, opera, symphony or folk-show, a boat-ride on the canals, or dinner in one of St. Petersburg's many restaurants (we are happy to provide recommendations if needed).

Day Tour 1: 08.00 - 17.00 (9 hours), Guide and Car provided

08.00 - 10.00  Orientation drive around the city
10.00 - 12.30 visits to the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood and Peter and Paul Fortress
12.30 - 13.30 Lunch/snacks Optional: pre-set 3-courses lunch in town at 26 USD / 23 EUR per person
13.45 - 16.30 Guided Tour of the Hermitage Museum and its great collection of Old Masters and much more
17.00  Return to your hotel or back to your cruise ship

Day Tour 2: 08.30 - 17.00 (8.5 hours), Guide and Car provided

08.30 - 09.45  Walk/drive tour around the city
09.45  Drive (45 min) to Pushkin Town, summer residence of the Tsars: Catherine Palace with the famous Amber Room and Imperial Gardens
12.45 - 13.45 Lunch/snacks. Optional: Lunch in the rural Podvorie restaurant - Russian traditional lunch with 5 courses and drinks at 32 USD / 28 EUR per person.
14.00  Drive back to the city
15.00-16.30  Visit to the Yusupov Palace
17.00  Return to your hotel or back to your cruise ship.

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Day 3: 09.00 - 17.00 (8 hours), Guide and Car provided

09.00 - 10.00 In the morning, a visit to the still practicing St. Nicolas Church is followed by a drive to Peterhof, the summer residence of Peter the Great on the Gulf of Finland.

10.30 - 12.30 Tour of the Great Palace and its spectacular gardens with 150 fountains. We will also visit Monplaisir (the 'Dutch House'), designed Peter the Great himself and which became one of his favourite palaces, used for parties and intimate private dinners.

12.30 - 13.30 Lunch/snacks. Optional: lunch in the Garden Restaurant at 28USD / 24 EUR per person

13.30 Hydrofoil back to the city (Hermitage Pier)

14.30-15.30 Free time for walking, along Nevsky Prospect and for shopping

15.30-16.30 Visit St Isaac's Cathedral

17:00 Return to your hotel or back to your cruise ship

Tour price per person

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Included

Vouchers to clear immigration (equivalent for visas); port entrance; guide; transportation; museum express entrances booked ahead; hydrofoil tickets

Not Included

Meals; evening entertainment; hotel accommodation (for passengers of the 'Princess Maria' and 'Princess Anastasia' cruise ferries*); portage; tips

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Two Capitals Tour: Moscow & St Petersburg

Duration: 7 days / 6 nights - Friday Arrival

Open Russia invites you to visit the two great cities of Russia, its ancient (and current) capital Moscow and the northern Imperial capital, St Petersburg. These two cities, so different in their history and flavour, together provide a broad perspective of the Russian experience.

The golden cupolas of Russia’s medieval churches, Red Square and the mighty walls of the Kremlin, the lavish palaces of the Romanovs and the greatest art collections of the Hermitage await you on this journey through Russia. Led by the most knowledgeable and experienced guides, this tour will introduce you to the cultural essence of these two fascinating cities as well as to modern Russian life.

Day 1 – Friday, Arrive in Moscow

Welcome to Moscow, the largest city in Russia and the center of its political and economic life. Upon arrival your guide and driver will meet you at the exit gate of the airport to transfer you to the hotel. We recommend that you rest this evening. The guide will advise on the best restaurants nearby for dinner.

Day 2 – Saturday, Moscow City tour, Moscow metro, Red Square and Kremlin

Full day sightseeing / 8 hours with car & guide

09:30 The City tour will take you to Moscow's most famous historic sites, from ancient churches to giant Stalin skyscrapers to the sheik contemporary office buildings. It’s an excellent way to see the exteriors of renowned buildings and places such as the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, Bolshoy Theatre, New Maiden Convent, Kitai Gorod merchant area, Vorobievy Hills with a fantastic panoramic view of the city and more.

You’ll take a short ride on Moscow’s Metro System, which has some stations ornate as palaces, with marble arches, crystal chandeliers, sculptures and mosaics - glorious remnants of the Soviet era.

Finally, you’ll get to the heart of Moscow - Red Square, whose name in Old Russian means 'Beautiful Square'. Red Square must be seen to be truly appreciated. As you walk across this place, steeped in history, you will behold the colorful, onion-domed St Basil's Cathedral - the iconic visiting card of Moscow.

Optional: St. Basil Cathedral inside visit, entrance tickets 20 USD / 18 EUR per person

Another optional tour this morning is to Leo Tolstoy House Museum which offers quite a window onto the genius of the great Russian writer – 12USD / 10 EUR per person.

Optional: lunch – 28 USD / 24 EUR per person

14:00 Tour of the Kremlin - the Russian citadel and birthplace of Moscow, the seat of Russian power and home to the President of the Russian Federation. This fortified complex of ancient churches, palaces, and government buildings dates back to 1156. Open Russia will take you inside the Annunciation, Assumption and Archangel’s Cathedrals. You’ll also visit the Armoury Chamber with its amazing collection of tsarist paraphernalia.

Please note that the Kremlin is closed on Thursdays.

Optional: Diamond Fund, entrance tickets 10.5 USD / 9 EUR per person

17:30 Return to hotel

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Day 3 – Sunday, Tretyakov State Gallery and departure to St Petersburg by train

Half-day sightseeing with car & guide; transfer to Sapsan train

09:30 After breakfast, check out of the hotel and we will take you to the Tretyakov State Gallery - which houses the greatest collection of Russian art, including thousands of works from the 11th to 20th centuries. The gallery was founded by Tretyakov, a wealthy 19th century merchant, as a private collection and later donated to the city.

Optional: Lunch - $26 per person

14:00 Transfer to the train station for your departure to St Petersburg
15:40 Sapsan fast train to St Petersburg (economy class train ticket)

Optional: upgrade to business class train ticket – 70 USD / 60 EUR per person

17:30 Arrive St Petersburg, meet the local guide and transfer to the hotel

Day 4 – Monday, St Petersburg city-tour and the Yusupov palace

Full day sightseeing / 8 hours with car & guide

Welcome to St Petersburg, one of the world’s most magnificent travel destinations!

09:00 Depart for the City tour, which gives you an overview of the history and geography of St Petersburg, a UNESCO World Heritage site. From outside you’ll observe St. Isaac’s Square and the Mariinsky Theater, the Hermitage, the Winter Palace, the Palace Square, the Spit of Vasilievsky Island, the Bronze Horseman Statue, Peter’s Log Cabin, the cruiser Aurora, Smolny Convent, the Nevsky Prospect, the Church of the Saviour on the Spilt Blood, the Square of Arts and more.

Late morning you’ll visit the Peter-and-Paul Fortress, which marks the founding of the city by Peter the Great in 1703. The massive stone walls enclose a number of very early 18th century buildings including the Cathedral of St. Peter & St. Paul built by D. Trezzini in 1714. Here all the Romanovs from Peter the Great onwards are buried, and on July 1998 the last Tsar, Nickolas II, with most of his family, were finally laid here to rest.

The majestic St. Isaac’s Cathedral stands among Europe’s largest and most imposing churches. Its decadent golden dome, sweeping observation deck, opulent interior decorations, and ornate artifacts make it one of the most popular sites in St Petersburg. Inside there are magnificent mosaic icons that enjoy the world renown.

Optional: Lunch in a local restaurant – 26 USD / 23 EUR per person

14:30 The afternoon tour is to the Yusupov Palace - once owned by the richest family in Russia, where the restored State Rooms can be seen, some still with their original furniture, the exquisite rococo Private Theatre and the cellars where the murder of Rasputin took place in December 1916 - the scene eerily recreated in wax.

17:00 Return to the hotel

Day 5 – Tuesday, Peterhof and the Hermitage Museum

Full day sightseeing / 8 hours with guide (including 4 to 6 hours with car)

09:00 Drive (one hour approx.) to Peterhof - the vast ensemble of gilded fountains and gardens on the Gulf of Finland. Designed for Peter the Great in 1706-1723 as the Tsar’s

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'Versailles' and embellished by successive Tsars, Peterhof is one of the most impressive and ornate residences, with the largest functioning 18th century fountain complex in the world.

**10:15–12:30** Walk through the delightful formal gardens, past cascades and fountains and visit the Palaces in the grounds:

*Please note:* we will visit the Monplaisir Palace in the period May – October, or the Grand Palace of Peterhof, in October – May.

The Grand Palace, like others in and around St Petersburg, was destroyed during World War II. However, the extraordinary restoration to its original state is widely regarded as a model of restoration worldwide. Monplaisir Palace, Peter’s private home on the Gulf of Finland, still preserves the atmosphere of the early 18th century with the Tsar’s personal belongings, paintings and furniture.

Optional: lunch in the restaurant in the park – 26 USD / 23 EUR per person

Hydrofoil trip (35 min) from Peterhof to the Hermitage pier (May – October); Drive back to the city from the Monplaisir Palace (October - May)

**14:30-16:30** Guided tour of the State Hermitage Museum - Russia’s premier museum and one of the largest art collections that has ever been gathered in the world.

The Hermitage is housed in a magnificent architectural complex, the former 18th century Winter palace of the Romanovs and four adjacent buildings, stretching for a quarter of a mile along the banks of the river Neva in central St Petersburg. You’ll tour the sumptuously furnished State Rooms, seeing the unrivalled European masterpieces, the majority amassed during the reign of Catherine the Great. After the direction of your experienced guide you’ll see the best of the collections in two hours before exploring the museum on your own.

From 16:30 Free time to spend in the Hermitage, or optional visit to the General Staff building across from Winter Palace (on your own with tickets at your own cost) with the French Impressionists exhibition. Walk back to the hotel. **Please note** that no transportation will be provided after the Hermitage Tour.

**Day 6 – Wednesday, Pushkin town with Catherine Palace and gardens**

6 hours sightseeing with guide and car

**09:00** You’ll drive approximately 1 hour to the town of 'Pushkin' (formerly Tsarskoye Selo) located in 24 miles south of St Petersburg. The drive will be narrated by your private guide. In Pushkin you’ll enjoy a lovely walk through the gardens and visit the grandiose Catherine Palace - the summer residence of the Tsars.

The Catherine Palace was originally built in the early 18th century for Peter the Great’s wife Catherine I. It was completely rebuilt in by the architect F. B. Rastrelli in 1752 and later became the beloved residence of Catherine the Great, who invited the British architect Charles Cameron to work on the palace. It was Cameron who added the neo-classical Cameron Gallery and converted the gardens into an elaborate English park. You’ll see the dazzling Ballroom and the enfilade of rococo halls including the legendary ‘Amber Room’, now recreated since its ‘loss’ during World War II.

*Optional:* lunch in the restaurant in Pushkin – 32 USD / 28 EUR per person

**15:00** Return to the hotel

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email: reservations@openrussiatours.com  :  web: www.openrussiatours.com
Recommended activity for the afternoon/early evening: take a boat ride through St Petersburg’s canals.

**Optional evening program:** St Petersburg boasts some of the best theaters in the world! We can arrange tickets for a ballet or opera performance, concert or, folk-show.

**Day 7 – Thursday, Transfer to the airport with guide**

On the last day of your journey your Open Russia guide and driver will take you to the airport and assist with your baggage and departure. We’re confident that you will feel enriched from your time with us in Russia and hope that you will carry your wonderful memories home to cherish and share forever.

**Tour price per person**

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**Included**

Private transportation and guide services; Transfers; Entrances to the mentioned museums; Economy class train ticket Moscow - St. Petersburg; Visa support letter (invitation)

**Not Included**

Airfares; Accommodation; Optional visits; Meals; Porterage; Tips
Moscow, 1 day tour from St Petersburg *early start, back same evening*

If you are in St Petersburg, enjoying its museums, history and glory, but are curious about Moscow and interested to visit, we offer a short break and day trip tour Moscow, visiting the major highlights of the Russian capital.

A superb opportunity to visit Moscow for Cruise Ship travelers docked at St. Petersburg without a visa!

This tour has an early start as you will catch the 6:45am high-speed service train to Moscow. This is not so arduous, as St Petersburg station is easily accessible, situated in the very center of the city. Your St Petersburg guide and driver will transfer you to the ‘Moscow Railway Terminal’ and put you on the train and in less than 4 hours you will be in Moscow, arriving in the heart of the city. Upon arrival you will be met by your private guide and driver, who will be at your disposal until your departure back to St Petersburg on the 19:40 train. If you are cruise ship passengers without visas, you'll be escorted by your St Petersburg guide throughout the trip.

In the day, you will have an 8 hour tour around central Moscow (itinerary below), including a visit to Red Square, the Kremlin, with its ancient onion-domed Cathedrals and the Armory Museum. Your tour will also include lunch in a city restaurant, pre-booked to save time for the sightseeing tour.

You'll take the same high-speed train back and be met by your St Petersburg guide and driver, who will take you back to your hotel for around midnight.

06:00 Transfer to Moscow Railway Station with the guide for the 06:45 train departure
10:50 Arrive Moscow, meet the local guide and take metro to Red Square (cruise ship passengers will go by metro with the accompanying guide and meet the Moscow guide on the Red Square). **Tour of Red Square.** Vast, crowded, almost mountainous in its grandeur: on one side the cliffs of the Kremlin, at their foot Lenin's ominous Mausoleum, on the other side the cavernous G.U.M. department store (the former USSR's largest) and on the eastern entrance to the square, St. Basil's Cathedral. **Optional coffee break.**

12:00-02:00 The **Kremlin**, its **Cathedrals** and **Armory**.

The Kremlin tour is a walk through 600 years of Russian and Soviet history. You'll visit two Cathedrals; the **Assumption Cathedral** and **Archangel Cathedral** (coronation site of the Tsars), which serve as a vivid and rich reminder of old Russia’s religious devotion. You'll see the gardens, bell towers, palaces and churches within the Kremlin complex and the Palace of Congresses, built in 1961. You will also visit the Armory and the Diamond Exhibition (optional) where the jewels owned and worn by Russian royalty over the years are on display.

**Optional: Diamond fund, tickets only – 10.5 USD / 9 EUR per person**

14:00 Restaurant lunch (pre-booked)
After lunch you will be taken on a tour of the City Centre - a familiarization drive tour around Moscow's most interesting main streets, architectural highlights, and viewing points.
18:30 Back to Moscow Station for the 19:40 St Petersburg train
23:25 Arrive St Petersburg station 23:30, transfer back to hotel (or cruise ship).
Open Russia Tours 2020

Tour price per person (Moscow, 1 day tour from St Petersburg)

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Included

Transfers with English speaking guide in St Petersburg; Transportation and guide services in Moscow (as per the itinerary); Entrances to the Kremlin and Armoury; Lunch; Economy (2nd class*) train tickets St Petersburg/Moscow return *Supplement for the 1st class is 70 USD / 60 EUR per ticket.

Not Included

Supplement for cruise passengers (vouchers to clear immigration – equivalent to visa, vehicle pass to the port, accompanying guide’s fee and train ticket), optional visits; Portage; Tip

For tour reservations & hotel bookings, call us directly on +7 812 934 3134
email: reservations@openrussiatours.com  web: www.openrussiatours.com
Moscow, Russia’s Capital, 5 Day Tour

Duration: 5 days / 4 nights – This tour is based on a Friday Arrival!

This tour invites you to visit Moscow, the ancient and current capital of Russia. The golden cupolas of Russia’s medieval churches, Red Square and the mighty walls of the Kremlin, the sacred Zagorsk Monastery and the greatest Russian art collections of the Tretyakov Gallery await you on this journey through Moscow. Led by the most knowledgeable and experienced guides, this tour will introduce you to the cultural essence of this fascinating city as well as to its modern life.

Day 1 – Friday, arrive in Moscow

Welcome to Moscow, the largest city in Russia and the center of its political and economic life. Upon arrival your guide and driver will meet you at the exit gate of the airport to transfer you to the hotel. We recommend that you rest this evening. The guide will advise on the best nearby restaurants to have dinner.

Day 2 – Saturday, Moscow city-tour, Tretyakov State Gallery

Full day sightseeing / 8 hours with car & guide

09:30 The city tour will take you to Moscow’s most famous historic sites, from ancient churches to giant Stalin skyscrapers to the sheik contemporary office buildings. It’s an excellent way to see the exteriors of renowned buildings and places such as the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, Bolshoy Theatre, New Maiden Convent, Kitai Gorod merchant area, Vorobievy Hills with a fantastic panoramic view of the city and more.

Optional: tour of the Leo Tolstoy House-Museum which offers quite a window into the genius of the great Russian writer – 12 USD / 10 EUR per person

Optional: lunch – 28 USD / 24 EUR per person

14.00 Drive to the Tretyakov State Gallery – the world’s premier museum of Russian art, including thousands of works from the 11th to 20th centuries. The gallery was founded as a private collection of the wealthy 19th century merchant Tretyakov who later donated it to the city.

17:30 Return to Hotel.

Day 3 – Sunday, trip to the Trinity Sergius Monastery in Zagorsk (Sergiev Posad)

09.00 Drive 72 kms northeast to Zagorsk (Sergiev Posad). This is a comfortable and popular day trip from Moscow. Zagorsk’s chief attraction is the Trinity Sergius Monastery (Laura), founded in 1345 by St. Sergius of Radonezh and containing his relics. For 500 years it has been the most important center of pilgrimage and remains one of the most beautiful of all Russian Orthodox monasteries - the fairytale gold and azure onion domes of its Cathedral of the Assumption are among the most photographed in the country. The ride to Sergiev Posad takes you through a lovely stretch of Russian countryside.

Optional: lunch in Zagorsk (Sergiev Posad), $25 per person

16:00 Return to Hotel

For tour reservations & hotel bookings, call us directly on +7 812 934 3134
e-mail: reservations@openrussiatours.com : web: www.openrussiatours.com
Day 4 – Monday, the Kremlin and Red Square, Moscow metro

8 hours sightseeing with guide, no transport provided

**09.30** Walk or take metro to the Kremlin, the Russian citadel and birthplace of Moscow, seat of Russian power and home to the President of the Russian Federation. This fortified complex of ancient churches, palaces, and government buildings dates back to 1156. Open Russia will take you inside the Annunciation, Assumption and Archangel’s Cathedrals. You’ll also visit the Armoury Chamber with its amazing collection of tsarist paraphernalia. *Please note that the Kremlin is closed on Thursdays.*

Optional: Diamond Fund, entrance tickets 10.5USD / 9 EUR per person.

Optional: Lunch – 28USD / 24 EUR per person

Afternoon In the afternoon you’ll get to the heart of Moscow - Red Square, its name in old Russian means ‘Beautiful Square’. Red Square must be seen to be truly appreciated. As you walk across this place, steeped in history, you will behold the colorful, onion-domed St Basil’s Cathedral - the iconic visiting card of Moscow.

Optional: St. Basil Cathedral inside visit, entrance tickets 20 USD / 18 EUR per person

Finally, go on a short ride through Moscow Metro System with stations as ornate as palaces, featuring marble arches, crystal chandeliers, sculptures and mosaics - glorious remnants of the Soviet era.

**17:30** Return to hotel by metro.

Day 5 – Tuesday, transfer & guide to the airport

On the last day of your journey your Open Russia guide and driver will take you to the airport and assist with your baggage and departure.

We’re confident that you will feel enriched from your time with us in Moscow and hope that you will carry your wonderful memories home to cherish and share forever.

Tour price per person

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Included

Private transportation and guide services; Transfers; Entrances to the mentioned museums; Visa support letter (invitation)

Not Included

Airfares; Accommodation; Optional visits; Meals; Portage; Tips

For tour reservations & hotel bookings, call us directly on +7 812 934 3134
email: reservations@openrussiatours.com  :  web: www.openrussiatours.com
Inside Russian Ballet (7 days/6nights)

Since early French and Italian traditions, Russian ballet developed to become unique and highly regarded as being among the best and most influential in the world. St. Petersburg is the center of the Russian classical school of dancing and has produced its greatest dancers and choreographers.

The Russian Ballet tour will acquaint you with such legendary names as Agrippina Vaganova, Anna Pavlova, Vatслав Nizhinsky, George Balanchin, Tamara Karsavina, Matilda Kschessinskaya, Rudolf Nureev, Michael Baryshnikov, Natalia Makarova, Galina Ulanova, Konstantin Sergeev and others, and will take you to different sites in St. Petersburg connected with their life and work.

You’ll have a unique opportunity to see the backstage of the world-famous Mariinsky Opera and Ballet House (1 hour) and pay a visit to the renowned Vaganova Ballet Academy. Graduates of this school include some of the most famous ballet dancers, choreographers and teachers in history and many of the world’s leading ballet schools have adopted elements of the Vaganova method into their own training.

ITINERARY

Day 1 – arrival transfer/transfer + evening program

Arrival, transfer or separate individual transfers in the morning and early afternoon, arrival at the hotel, check-in

Before dinner – ballet expert Alexei Leporc’s lecture about Russian ballet in one of the hotel meeting rooms with drinks during the lecture (shot of vodka, water, juice)

After lecture walk or drive to restaurant

Welcome dinner at restaurant. After dinner walk or drive back to the hotel

Day 2

09:30 Meeting with the guide in the hotel lobby, City Tour of St. Petersburg including:

- Visit to Peter and Paul Fortress
- Vaganova Ballet Academy – to be confirmed closer to the date
- Exhibition dedicated to the Russian ballet at Samoilovs’ Theatrical Museum

Lunch at restaurant (pre-booked)

After lunch Hermitage tour (Winter Palace, Old masters) including the Diamond collection of the Hermitage (separate exhibition)

18:00 Return to the hotel

Evening Performance at the Mikhailovsky, or the Hermitage Theatre, or the Mariinsky Theatre (depending on schedule)

Day 3

09:30 Drive to the Pushkin (Tsarskoye Selo)

Tour of the Catherine Palace in Tsarskoye Selo and short walk in the park

Lunch at Podvorie restaurant - set menu with vodka and wine

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After lunch tour of Pavlovsk Palace and walk in the Pavlovsk Park

15:30 Drive back to the city
16:30 Return to the hotel

Evening Performance at the Mikhailovsky, or the Hermitage Theatre, or the Mariinsky Theatre (depending on schedule)

Day 4

09:00 Drive to Peterhof
10:00-10:15 Early entrance into the Great Peterhof Palace (before the official opening of the museum)
Tour of the Lower Park with fountains, visit inside Monplaisir Palace (June-late September)

Hydrofoil ride back to St. Petersburg (30 min)

Arrive St. Petersburg, drive to the restaurant

Lunch at Aragvi (Georgian cuisine)

After lunch walk 5 min to Faberge Museum, tour of the museum

16:00 Return to the hotel
17:00 Meeting in the hotel lobby, drive to the restaurant The Repa (next door to Mariinsky Theatre)
17:20 Meeting with a Russian Prima Ballerina in the restaurant The Repa followed by dinner (hot starter, cold starter, main dish, dessert, 2 glasses of wine, water, tea/coffee)
19:00 Ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre. After performance drive back to the hotel.

Day 5

09:30 City tour of St. Petersburg

Visit to the museum of political history of Russia - a Palace formerly owned by the prima ballerina of the Mariinsky Theatre, Matilda Kshesinskaya, to see the exhibition dedicated to this outstanding Russian ballerina, the mistress of Grand Duke Nicholas, future Nicholas II. In 1917 her Palace became headquarters for Lenin and Bolsheviks - TOUR WITH THE CURATOR

NB! We can book just the tour of this exhibition, but the museum itself is very interesting and the whole collection is well presented, so we recommend to see it in full.

12:00 Backstage tour of the Mariinsky Theatre

Lunch in a City restaurant

After lunch tour of the Yusupov Palace including the gala interiors of the Palace. A private theatre and the wine cellar where Rasputin was killed.

16:30 Return to the hotel

Evening Performance at the Mikhailovsky, or the Hermitage Theatre, or the Mariinsky Theatre (depending on schedule)
Day 6

Drive or walk to the Spilled Blood Cathedral

Tour of the Cathedral of Spilled Blood

Visit to the Russian Art Museum (next door) – Russian classical art and Russian Avant-garde

Lunch at Baku restaurant (Azerbaijanian cuisine) – 5 min. walk from the Russian museum.

After lunch 1 or 1.5 hours canal boat ride

16:30 Return to the hotel
Meet in the hotel lobby, drive to the Stroganoff Palace

Late opening of the Stroganoff Palace (after the working hours of the museum) tour with the Senior curator of the Stroganoff Palace

19:30 Vodka and caviar tasting in the former wine cellar of the Stroganoff Palace
**NB! Black, red and pike caviar + pancakes with garnishes + 2 types of vodka**

20:30 Farewell dinner in the Russian Empire restaurant (located in the Stroganoff Palace)
After the dinner walk or drive to the hotel

Day 7

Departure transfer/transfers

5 nights/6 days out of Moscow

This trip to Golden Ring cities in full depth introduces you to the treasury of Russian history, masterpieces of ancient art, unique monuments, great museums and fascinating landscapes.

Day 1

By 8:00 make sure that your bags are on board and you start driving Pereslavl Zalessky (145 km – 3 hours with a refreshment stop). In Pereslavl Zalessky, after a coffee break, you’ll visit the renown St. Saviour of Transfiguration Church (1157), one of the earliest to be seen on the Ring.

Drive to Rostov the Great (64 km). On the banks of the lake Nero, this town flourished as a trade and cultural centre from the 9th to 18h centuries. The tour includes Rostov Kremlin with its enchanting silver and gold cupolas and Enamel Museum celebrating the tradition of miniature painting on enamel. After lunch in the Kremlin restaurant you’ll continue to Yaroslavl (59 km). Have dinner and spend the night in Ring Premier Hotel.

08:00-11:00 Drive to Pereslavl Zalessky (including 15 min refreshment stop)
11:00-11:20 Coffee break
11:20-12:00 St. Saviour of Transfiguration Church
12:00-13:10 Drive to Rostov
13:10-14:30 Lunch
14:30-17:00 Kremlin and Enamel Museum
17:00-18:10 Drive to Yaroslavl, check-in to Hotel
19:30 Dinner at Hotel

Day 2

The day stars with the Yaroslavl city tour. On the west bank of the River Volga, this ancient city retains much of its 18th and 19th century mercantile appearance and layout. Visits include: Monastery of the Saviour of the Transfiguration, Church of Elijah the Prophet, decorated with outstanding frescos on subjects from Old & New Testament, and Church of John the Baptist depicted on the Russian 1000 rouble bill.

River cruise takes you along the Volga, lunch is served on board. After lunch drive to Kostroma (84 km), visit Ipatiev Monastery, at one time the wealthiest in the country. The first Romanov tsar left from here to be crowned in the Moscow Kremlin in 1613.

City tour via the town of Kostroma and check-in to Ya Hotel. Dinner in Hotel.

09:00-10:00 Yaroslavl city tour
10:00-11:30 Monastery of the Saviour of the Transfiguration
11:40-12:30 Church of Elijah the Prophet
12:40-14:00 Volga cruise with lunch
14:00-15:30 drive to Kostroma
15:30-17:00 Ipatiev Monastery and Trinity Cathedral

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e-mail: reservations@openrussiatours.com : web: www.openrussiatours.com

22
Day 3

In the morning leave for **Ples** town, now considered one of the most desirable country getaways by wealthy Muscovites. This little town on the Banks of the Volga River was made famous by the 19th-century artist Isaac Levitan who found the light and birch strewn landscape irresistible.

Walk along the river and visit **Levitan Museum**, artist's former lodging among the fish-smoking shacks. Lunch is served in a restaurant on the riverbank. From Ples drive to Suzdal (148 km) where you dine and stay for overnight.

09:00-10:15  Drive to **Ples**
10:15-10:50  City tour on foot
10:50-11:15  Refreshment break
11:15-12:15  **Levitan Museum**
12:30-14:00  Lunch
14:00-17:00  Drive to **Suzdal** (including a stop)
17:00        Check-in to Pushkarskaya Sloboda Hotel
19:30        Dinner

Day 4

Suzdal is a well-known tourist destination that has many remarkable riverside churches and monasteries dating back to the 11th century, some of which are included in UNESCO World Heritage List. Today, Suzdal has the look and feel of a small provincial town or village, with it's beautiful landscape and rustic unpaved roads and houses.

Leave the Hotel on foot for **Museum of Wooden Architecture** with its historic samples of vernacular buildings, this outdoor museum gives an insight into rural living in old Russia. Your next visit this morning is to **Suzdal Kremlin**; within its walls stands the **Cathedral of Nativity** with its 13th-century white stone reliefs Its ancient doors are rare surviving examples of the technique of fire gilding.

Have lunch in a local restaurant. Continue the city tour of Suzdal with a visit to the remarkable **St. Euphimius Monastery**. The largest of Suzdal's many monasteries, St. Euthymius has a commanding position overlooking the town and river. It is remarkably well-preserved and great example of the might of the Russian Orthodox church in medieval times.

You can admire the view from outside the formidable walls OR, time permitting, take a walk down to the **Pokrovsky Convent** for a magical 360 degree view of the town. At the end of the day visit the **12th-century Church of Boris and Gleb**, first Russian saints, in the village of **Kideksha** (5 km). There'll be some free time before dinner.

09:30-09:35  Walk to **Wooden Architecture Museum**
09:35-10:45  **Tour of the Museum**, walk to Kremlin
11:25-12:35  **Suzdal Kremlin** and **Cathedral**
12:45-14:30  Lunch
14:30-14:45 drive to Kideksha
14:45-15:30 Church of Boris and Gleb in Kideksha
15:45-17:00 St. Euthymius Monastery, concert of church bells

Return to Hotel / or free time in Suzdal

Dinner (can be organised in a private home of a local family)

**Day 5**

Today’s tour starts in **Bogolyubovo** (20 km), a small village between Vladimir and Suzdal. Highlights are the Church of Intercession on the river Nerl, dating from the early XII century that is considered the most harmonious Temple ever built in Russia. Alternatively (in case of bad weather, when the Church of Intercession is closed) you explore the territory and churches of the **Bogolyubovo Convent** that stands on the sight of the former Palace of Andrew the Pious (Bogolubsky), the only building of Medieval Russia that has survived without renovation.

Continue to Vladimir (12 km), lunch will be served in a local restaurant in Vladimir.

After lunch, you will explore the town of Vladimir, one of the medieval capitals of Russia and home to three important monuments that are on the **UNESCO on the World Heritage List**: the magnificent five-domed **Assumption Cathedral**, painted by the great medieval iconographers Andrei Rublev and Daniil Chyorny; **St. Demetrius Cathedral** notable for its noble form, ideal proportions and walls decorated with beautiful stone carvings and more than 600 bas-reliefs; and the **Golden Gate** - a combination of battle tower, overgate church and triumphal arch, a remarkable monument of Russian fortification architecture.

09:15-09:45 Drive to Bogolyubovo
09:45-11:45 Visit the Church of Intercession on the River Nerl (walk across water meadows 1 km each way)
11:45-12:15 Drive to Vladimir
12:30-13:45 Lunch
14:00-15:30 Walk including Assumption Cathedral and St Demetrius Cathedral
15:30-16:30 Vladimir city tour and Golden Gates
16:30-17:30 Drive back to Suzdal*

Option would be to return to Moscow this evening on a high speed train (1 h 40 min) – to do a 4 nights / 5 days version of this Tour

Free time

**Day 6**

In the morning drive to **Alexandrov** (137 km) with luggage on board. Alexandrov was a residence of Ivan the Terrible as an alternative capital of Russia. The tour includes the residence territory and the **Palace of Ivan the Terrible**. Continue to **Sergiev Posad** (48 km). Lunch will be served at Pechki Lavochki restaurant, and after lunch you’ll visit the **St. Sergius Monastery** – the ancient centre of Russian Orthodoxy with churches and buildings dating from the 15th to the 18th centuries.

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e-mail: reservations@openrussiatours.com : web: www.openrussiatours.com
An exuberant, extensive site, it makes a fitting end to the Golden Ring Tour. The drive to Moscow takes about 2 hours (78 km). We transfer you to your Hotel, train station, or airport.

09:00-11:00  drive to Alexandrov
11:00-12:30  Tour of the Monastery and Palace of Ivan the Terrible
12:30-13:30  drive to Sergiev Posad
13:30-14:15  Lunch at Pechki Lavochki
14:45-16:45  St Sergius Monastery and free time
16:45-18:30  drive to Moscow

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email: reservations@openrussiatours.com  :  web: www.openrussiatours.com
Cities of the Golden Ring, Suzdal & Vladimir, 1 Day Tour

1 day tour out of Moscow. A two day tour of Suzdal & Vladimir is also available (detail below).

Suzdal and Vladimir are part of Moscow’s ‘Golden Ring’, a chain of ancient towns and cities located to the North-East of the Capital. The Suzdal and Vladimir tour enables you to discover treasures of Russian history and culture, masterpieces of ancient art and unique monuments of Old Russia.

This tour has an early start. At 6:00 am meet your guide and driver in the hotel lobby, they will take you to the railway station to catch the high speed train to Vladimir, one of the medieval capitals of Old Russia and also part of Moscow’s Golden Ring. It would take just 1 hour and 40 min. to get to Vladimir onboard of the comfortable modern train. You make your train journey on your own, but upon arrival meet your local English speaking guide on the platform, who stay with you until you leave Vladimir by train the same evening.

Upon your arrival you will be driven to Suzdal, which dates from the 11th century. Suzdal is a well-known and popular tourist destination. It has many remarkable riverside churches and monasteries dating from the 11th - 13th century, some of which are included in UNESCO World Heritage List as fine examples of ancient Russian architecture. The town, once an important religious centre, has the look and feel of a provincial village with its beautiful landscape, rustic houses and unpaved roads. The tour includes visits to the beautiful ancient churches in the town, the Kremlin, its grounds, Cross Chamber and the Wooden Architecture Museum.

You will also visit St. Euphimius Monastery OR the Pokrovsky Convent.

Lunch in a local restaurant is included.

In the afternoon, after lunch, you visit Vladimir. The town has three monuments on the UNESCO World Heritage List

- The magnificent five-domed Assumption Cathedral was designed as a sepulcher of grand princes and dedicated to the holy icon Theotokos of Vladimir, which had been brought to the city by Andrew the Pious. The cathedral was constructed in 1158–1160, expanded in 1185–1189, and includes major frescoes by the great artists Andrei Rublev and Daniil Chyorny.
- St. Demetrius Cathedral (end of the C12) is notable for its noble forms and ideal proportions. Its walls are decorated with beautiful stone fretwork - it has more than 600 bas-reliefs.
- Golden Gate (1164), a combination of battle tower, over-gate church and triumphal arch, is considered a remarkable monument of Russian fortification architecture.

After the tours have some free time in Vladimir to explore the town on your own. After that you will be transferred to the railway station in Vladimir, where you catch the high speed train back to Moscow.

Upon your arrival to Moscow your driver will transfer you to the hotel.

1 day Tour, Itinerary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06:00</td>
<td>Meeting with the guide and driver in the hotel lobby, transfer to the railway station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:15</td>
<td>Train departure to Vladimir *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:55</td>
<td>Suzdal Arrival to Vladimir, meeting the guide and driver, drive to Suzdal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Tours in Suzdal: Kremlin; Cross Chamber; Nativity Church (inside); Museum of Wood artifacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00</td>
<td>Drive to Vladimir (30 km), lunch in Vladimir (included into the tour price)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For tour reservations & hotel bookings, call us directly on +7 812 934 3134
email: reservations@openrussiatours.com  :  web: www.openrussiatours.com
15:00  Vladimir city tour, Assumption Cathedral, the Golden Gate
18:00  Free time
19:30  Transfer to the railway station in Vladimir
20:12  Train departure back to Moscow
23:00  Arrival to Moscow, meeting with the driver, transfer to the hotel

*Train departure time may slightly change. The exact departure time is known 60 days ahead the departure date.

Tour price per person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>660 USD/580 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>370 USD/330 EUR</td>
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<td>300 USD/265 EUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>250 USD/220 EUR</td>
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<tr>
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<td>215 USD/190 EUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>220 USD/195 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>170 USD/150 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10+</td>
<td>155 USD/135 EUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Included
Transportation and Tour Guide; Lunch; Museum entrances; 2nd class return train tickets; Morning transfer with guide in Moscow; Transfer to the hotel without guide upon return to Moscow

Not Included
Dinner, on return to Moscow

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email: reservations@openrussiatours.com : web: www.openrussiatours.com
Cities of the Golden Ring, Suzdal & Vladimir, 2 Day Tour

Suzdal & Vladimir, 1 night/2 days out of Moscow

This trip to Vladimir and Suzdal introduces you to the treasury of Russian History and Culture, masterpieces of Ancient Art, unique monuments and fascinating museums.

Day 1 Itinerary

This tour starts early at 6:00am. Your English speaking guide/assistant will pick you up and take you to the railway station to catch the high speed train to Vladimir, an important town of historic Russia and part of the "Golden Ring". It would take just 1 hour and 40 min. to get to Vladimir onboard the comfortable modern train. You make your train journey on your own, but upon the arrival to Vladimir meet your local English speaking guide on the platform, this guide/assistant will stay with you until you leave Vladimir next evening.

Your tour will start with the visit to Bogolyubovo, a small village between Vladimir and Suzdal. Highlights are the Church of Intercession on the river Nerl, dating from the early XII century that is considered to be the most harmonious Temple ever built in Russia. Alternatively (in case of bad weather, when the Church of Intercession is closed) you explore the territory and churches of the Bogolyubovo Convent that stands on the sight of the former Palace of Andrew the Pious (Bogolyubsky), the only building of Medieval Russia that has survived without renovation.

After this visit you will travel to Vladimir for lunch. After lunch, you will explore the town of Vladimir, one of the medieval capitals of Russia and home to three important monuments that are on the UNESCO on the World Heritage List. The first is the magnificent five-domed Assumption Cathedral. Designed as a sepulcher for Grand Princes, the Cathedral is dedicated to the holy icon Theotokos of Vladimir, which was brought to the city by Andrew the Pious. The Cathedral was constructed in 1158–1160, expanded in 1185–1189, and painted by the great medieval iconographers Andrei Rublev and Daniil Chyorny. You will also visit the inside of the Cathedral.

Next you will visit St. Demetrius Cathedral (XII century) that is notable for its noble form, ideal proportions and walls decorated with beautiful stone fretwork and more than 600 bas-reliefs! Finally, you will visit the Golden Gate entrance into old Vladimir. Built in 1164, the Golden Gate is a combination of battle tower, overgate church and triumphal arch and is considered a remarkable monument of Russian fortification architecture.

At the end of the day you will be taken to the "Pushkarskaya Sloboda" hotel, where you can get some rest and spend the night.

Day 2

After breakfast, you will continue your tours in Suzdal, a well-known tourist destination that has many remarkable riverside churches and monasteries dating back to the 11th century, some of which are included in UNESCO World Heritage List. Today, Suzdal has the look and feel of a small provincial town or village, with it’s beautiful landscape and rustic unpaved roads and houses. The tour will include visits to the beautiful ancient churches, the former market square, the Kremlin, its grounds and Cross Chamber, Nativity Cathedral and the Wooden Architecture Museum.

Have lunch in a local restaurant.

Continue the city tour of Suzdal with a visit to the remarkable St. Euphimi Monastery. The largest of Suzdal’s many monasteries, St. Euphimi has a commanding position overlooking the town and river. It is remarkably well-preserved and great example of the might of the Russian Orthodox church in

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medieval times. After exploring the numerous churches and museums inside the monastery, you can admire the view from outside the formidable walls OR, time permitting, take a walk down to the Pokrovsky Convent for a magical 360 degree view of the town. Have lunch early afternoon and then explore Suzdal on your own.

Time to explore Suzdal on your own.

In the evening you will be taken to the train station in Vladimir to catch the high speed train back to Moscow.

Return to Moscow late evening. Your Moscow driver will wait for you on the platform to take back to the hotel.

**Day 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06:00</td>
<td>Meet guide in the hotel lobby, transfer to the railway station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07:15</td>
<td>High speed train departure to Vladimir*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:55</td>
<td>Arrive Vladimir, meeting the local guide on the platform, drive to Bogolyubovo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Arrive Bogolyubovo, tours in Bogolyubovo: Church of Intercession on the river Nerl and the Bogolyubovo Convent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Transfer to Vladimir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Lunch in the local restaurant in Vladimir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Vladimir city tour: Assumption Cathedral, St. Demitrius Cathedral (outside), Golden Gate. Transfer to Suzdal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Arrive Suzdal, accommodation at the &quot;Pushkarskaya Sloboda&quot; hotel (3* block), then free time for the evening</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Dinner is not included in the Tour price, but we are happy to recommend restaurants.*

One night accommodation at the Pushkarskaya Sloboda, a good 3* hotel

Free time.

**Day 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00</td>
<td>Breakfast, check out of the hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:45</td>
<td>Tours in Suzdal: Museum of Wooden Architecture; Kremlin with Cross Chamber and Nativity Cathedral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Lunch at the local restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:45</td>
<td>Visit to St. Euphimius Monastery and Transfiguration Cathedral, short concert of church bells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Free time in Suzdal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18:45</td>
<td>Transfer to the railway station in Vladimir to catch the high speed train &quot;Strizh&quot; back to Moscow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:12</td>
<td>Train departure*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23:00</td>
<td>Arrive Moscow, transfer to hotel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Train departure time may slightly change. The exact departure time is known 60 days ahead the departure date.*
Tour price per person (Suzdal & Vladimir 2 day tour)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>530 USD / 465 EUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>415 USD / 370 EUR</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>290 USD / 255 EUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10+</td>
<td>265 USD / 235 EUR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Included**

One night accommodation at the Pushkarskaya Sloboda hotel (3* block) with double occupancy; Transportation and dedicated English Guide/Assistant throughout as per the itinerary above; Local guides in the museums; Lunch each day; Museum entrances; Transfer in Moscow with guide; Transfer in Moscow without guide; 2nd class return train tickets

**Not Included**

Dinner on day 1 and on return to Moscow; Optional extras
Upgrade to 4* accommodation at Pushkarskaya Sloboda Hotel (wooden cabins)
The Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

The Baltic States are located south-west of St. Petersburg, on the east of the Baltic Sea. All three countries share a border with Russia and all are members of the European Union.

These three neighbouring countries have an interconnected history and culture, although the indigenous population of Latvia and Lithuania are known as 'Baltic' while people of Estonia are Finnish. Since the beginning of the 18th century, the history and culture of the Baltic States have been closely linked to Russia.

Travel to the Baltic States

A visit to Baltic States can well be combined with the trip to St. Petersburg. Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, is situated less than 400 km from St. Petersburg and there are different ways to travel between these two cities. St. Petersburg to Tallinn by plane is only 50 minutes. There is an overnight train and buses make several trips a day. There is also a ferry.

Buses and trains also operate between St. Petersburg and Riga, the capital of Latvia, and between St. Petersburg and Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania.

The best way to see all three Baltic States starting from St. Petersburg is to travel to Tallinn first and then to fly or travel by bus to Riga, which is 281 km away from Tallinn. Fast trains will also soon be available, operated by the Estonian company 'Edelraudtee', but currently it is necessary to change trains on the border between Estonia and Latvia. There are also regular trains, buses and flights between Riga (Latvia) and Vilnius (Lithuania).

Full Baltic States Tour, Duration: 5-6 days

Trips to individual Baltic countries can be arranged on request. Please call or email to discuss your particular preferences.

Day 1: Depart for Vilnius

18:45 Direct overnight train departs from St.Petersburg to Vilnius

Day 2: Vilnius City Tour

08:00 Arrival at Vilnius, meet the guide and driver on the station platform. Beginning of the Vilnius city tour.

Vilnius is the capital of Lithuania, situated on the banks of rivers Neris and Vilnia. The first time it was mentioned was when Grand Duke Gedeminas built a Castle on a hill there in 1323, and the old town of Vilnius is one of the largest and oldest in Eastern Europe. The magic atmosphere and the magnificent splendid architectural blend of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and Classicism styles makes this wonderful city to explore. During the city tour you visit Gedeminas Tower, numerous Cathedrals dated back to the 16th and 17th centuries, walk along Castle Street by the Presidential Palace, and struggle around the famous ‘Uzupis’ quarter, known as an independent republic of artists, poets and writers.

12:00 end of the city tour check-in to your hotel. Free time in the afternoon to explore the city.

Day 3: Explore Trakai, travel to Riga

Free time in the morning. Check out of the hotel.

12:30 Meeting with the guide and driver. Drive to Trakai (28km from Vilnius) with luggage on board.

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email: reservations@openrussiatours.com : web: www.openrussiatours.com
13:30 Start tour of Trakai.

Trakai is one of the most popular tourist attractions of the country, as it is the former capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, a small town situated in a picturesque lakeside area. The historical part of the town conserved the ruins of Peninsula Castle, the authentic heritage of small ethnic group Karaites as well as the top must-see side – the famous insular Castle on the Lake, the original gothic style architectural monument from the end of the XIV century, these days a historical Museum of Trakai. This tour includes a walk in the Karaites Cultural Reserve as well as a visit to Trakai Castle. After the tour you will have some free time to enjoy the beautiful nature of this area.

After the tour and good walk, enjoy some of the traditional dishes of Karaites cuisine in a local restaurant.

19:00 Arrive at Vilnius airport to check-in for a direct flight to Riga
21:40 Departure of the flight to Riga
22:30 Arrive Riga and transfer to the hotel, which is situated in the historical center of Riga.

Day 4: Riga tour

Check-out from the hotel after breakfast, leave your luggage in the luggage room and meet your private guide to explore Riga, its old town and Art Nouveau district.

10:00-14:00 Walking tour of Central Riga.

Riga, the capital of Latvia, is more than 800 years old. Here, in the narrow streets of Old Riga, you can feel the breath of centuries. The city was started in the XIII century and for a long time had been a mighty harbor as well as a member of the 'Hanseatic Trade League', which joined the traders of the Baltic Region and North Germany. After walking in the old town (about 2 hours) move to the Art Nouveau part of the city. Nearly half of the buildings in the center of Riga are built in the Art Nouveau style, which is more than in any other European city and a favourite of art and architecture connoisseurs. In an international effort to preserve Old Riga, it’s wooden buildings and Art Nouveau architecture in the historical center of Riga have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

14:00-16:30 Free time for lunch and walking around the city centre.
16:30 Return to the hotel to pick up luggage and meet the driver, transfer to the airport.
17:15 Arrive at Riga airport, check-in for the direct flight to Tallinn
19:05 Flight departure to Tallinn
19:55 Arrive Tallinn, transfer to the hotel, situated in the historical city centre.

Day 5: Tallinn tour

Meet your guide and driver after breakfast and begin your driving city tour around Tallinn city center.

09:30-13:30 Driving city tour of Tallinn including visits to Rocca al Mare Open Air Museum and Kadrior Park, Kadrior Palace and Peter the Great's Cottage.

Tallinn is truly one of the gems of Northern Europe. The old town has been astonishingly well preserved and was inscribed into the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1997. Start your day with the driving to the most famous Tallinn museums.

Rocca Al Mare open air museum is located in the quite seaside Rocca Al Mare area and is a travel back to the rural Estonia of XVIII-XX centuries. The forested park comprises numerous farm buildings as well as historic windmills, a wooden chapel and a village school. Staff dressed in period costumes demonstrate how people lived and worked in times past. Visitors can buy handicrafts and try the traditional Estonian food in the village tavern.
Kadriorg Palace, which stands in beautiful Kadriorg Park, is a grand baroque Palace built for Peter the Great in 1718 by the Italian architect Niccolo Michetti. Currently the Palace houses paintings, prints, sculptures and other works by Russian and Western-European artists. It also has a beautiful 'decadent' main hall with an elaborate ceiling and stucco work.

Peter the Great's Cottage, also known as "the Old Palace" (Kadriorg Palace being "the New Palace"), has fascinating history that started in the early 18th century, when Tsar Peter stayed here before his Kadriorg Grand Palace project was completed. This house is situated very close to the Palace and it is now a museum that includes his living room, dining room and bedroom as well as newly renovated rooms in the attic and basement. The rooms are furnished with the items from Peter the Great's time and some of his own personal belongings are also on display.

After lunch you will continue to explore Tallinn with your private guide.

15:00-17:30  Walking tour of Tallinn old town including the visit into the Old Town's City Hall.

Tallinn’s beautiful old town was built in the 13th-15th century, when it was known as Reval. It was a thriving member of Hanseatic Trade League and the city centre is full of colorful gabled houses, half-hidden courtyards and grandiose churches. The fact that it’s all neatly packaged within a mostly-intact city wall and dotted with guard towers gives it an extra dose of fairy-tale charm.

The impressive Gothic Town Hall dominates Medieval Tallinn's main square. Built in 1404 as a meeting place for the ruling burgermeisters, it has been one of the main sights ever since. Nowadays, it is the only intact Gothic Town Hall in Northern Europe.

Day 6 - Departure/Transfer

The cost of the tour Full Baltic States Tour is available on request, as it depends on the number of guests and the date of the tour. We are also happy to arrange tailor-made tours for you to one or more of the Baltic countries. Please contact us to discuss you preferences.
A Cultural tour of Riga (Latvia) and Vilnius (Lithuania)

The Tour includes: Riga, Mitava, Vilnius, Trakai, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Liepaja

From the 15th century the two states of Lithuania and Poland were a commonwealth but over the course of the next two centuries, both Poland and Russia became military threats to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. By 1795, Lithuania was under total Tsarist Russian rule and despite numerous rebellions for independence, Lithuania remained oppressed by the Russians and then Soviets until 1991.

Under Soviet rule the Lithuanians suffered terribly until 1991 when Lithuania, together with Estonia and Latvia, finally gained freedom from Communist rule - freedom taken for granted by those of us living on ‘this Sceptred Isle’. . . Vilnius was fortunate to escape war damage during World War 2 so Vilnius' uniquely rich architectural heritage remains mainly intact and beautiful.

Lithuania endured all the major historical events of the 20th century Europe: both World Wars and the dramatic Collapse of Communism in 1989 which led to independence and subsequently joining NATO and the EU in 2004.

Day 1, Wed

Arrive Riga

Transfer to 4* Hotel Europa Royal Riga (all rooms with en suite bathrooms and baths)

Riga, UNESCO World Heritage Site (population 642,000) One of the Hanseatic League ports, the capital of Latvia situated on the Daugava River dates from 1201 and remains the most beautiful of the Baltic cities with a stunning skyline of gothic church spires and medieval towers, reflecting a confluence of cultures and religions in Latvia’s rich history.

Enjoy a walking tour of Riga - European Capital of Culture (2014). Tour to include the picturesque Alberta Street, famed for its stunning colourful Art Nouveau buildings. See St. Jacobs' Church, and the food market — the largest covered market in Europe dating from 1922 (mainly built from disused German Zeppelin hangars).

Dinner in Benjamin’s hotel restaurant. Stay overnight in Riga

Day 2, Thurs

Breakfast and checkout and drive south (2 hrs) to Mitava to see the magnificent 140 room Rundale Palace built by the architect Rastrelli whose buildings are so characteristic of St. Petersburg (the Winter Palace, in particular).

Rundale Palace was built by the Russian Tsarina Anna (1730–1740) for her lover Count Biron. The interiors of the 18th century Palace are richly furnished and embellished with paintings, chandeliers and works of art (largely funded by the Headley Trust — The Sainsbury Family Trust).

Lunch close by

Drive to Vilnius (2.5 hrs)

Check in 4* Hotel Europa Royale Vilnius

An orientation walk in the nearby streets, time permitting

Dinner at Hotel restaurant

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email: reservations@openrussiatours.com: web: www.openrussiatours.com
Optional: Visit to the Opera

Stay overnight Vilnius

Day 3, Fri

Breakfast

Walking day in Vilnius’ Old Town viewing all the highlights of the city, which was nominated European Capital of Culture in 2009. Undamaged during WW2 the city is testimony to its unmatched architectural heritage — unique in central Europe. The heart of the city is intact (except for the entirely destroyed Jewish district). Enjoy the fusion of charming medieval, gothic and the baroque architecture lining attractive cobbled streets. See Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Orthodox churches representing cultures, nationalities and religions since 14th century. Also, see the fine University buildings dating from 1579.

Lunch in the Old Town

Optional: Ballet/Opera at Vilnius Opera House (built 1974)

Stay overnight Vilnius

Day 4, Sat

Breakfast and checkout and Drive (1,30 hrs) to Trakai National Park, a vast forested nature reserve with countless lakes. The dramatic 14th century Trakai Castle itself is set on an island and was the summer residence of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania.

Lunch in Trakai

Afternoon: Drive to Pajaislis Monastery (founded in 1662). The monastary has remarkable architectural features as well as impressive frescoed interiors. Napoleon based his army here and during 19th century the church became Russian Orthodox (under Russian domination of the Lithuania) and later under the Soviet authorities, the church was used as an archive, a hospital and finally an art gallery. At present, the Monastery has become an active place of worship.

Drive to Kaunas

Check in 4* Hotel Europa Royale Kaunas

Dinner at Hotel Restaurant

Stay overnight Kaunas

Day 5, Sun

Breakfast

Walk through the historic heart of the Old Town of Kaunas - see the 14th century fortification: Kaunas Castle, Vytautas’ Church and the gothic Kaunas Cathedral and the 19th Century Russian Orthodox neo Byzantine church of St. Michael the Archangel.

Lunch in Old Town

See the Museum of Western Art - which shows many works donated since 1991 by Lithuanian oligarchs.
Day 6, Mon

Breakfast and checkout and drive (2 hrs) to Klaipeda (formerly Memel) — the eastern Baltic’s most important ice free port dating from early Teutonic times. Described in the Encyclopædia Britannica (1815) as "the finest harbour in the Baltic", Klaipeda prospered during the 18th Century from its immense timber trade, also exporting corn, hemp and flax but mainly vital timber for the Lithuania Royal Navy (imports were salt, iron and herrings). Today, industry thrives from the gigantic Soviet-built port and related industries. The heart of the city remains intact and still contains many charming timbered buildings.

Klaipeda City tour

Lunch

Drive (1.5 hrs) to Liepaja, another important, ice-free harbour since early settlement times. In the Soviet era (1918–1991), Liepaja was a secret military base but has since reopened as a trading port.

Liepaja City tour

Tea/coffee break (at your own expense)

Drive to Riga (2.5 hrs)

20:00, arrive Riga and check in to hotel

Day 7, Tue

Breakfast and check out

Visit to the Art Museum Riga Bourse (opened in 2011) in the Art Nouveau centre of Riga — a grand 19th century 'palazzo' with ornate interiors - which exhibits silver, Meissen porcelain and Western European art.

Visit to the Museum of Soviet Occupation — a small but well stocked museum that shows the extreme soviet measures taken against the suppressed Lithuanian population in the period 1940–1991. Established in 1993, this moving exhibition shows up the successive occupations by the USSR in 1940, by Nazi Germany in 1941 and then again by the USSR in 1944. The visit will encapsulate much of the history of the whole tour.

Lunch

Transfer to the airport

*The cost of the Latvia and Lithuania Tour is available on request, as it depends on the number of guests and the date of the tour. We are also happy to arrange tailor-made tours for you to one or more of the Baltic countries. Please contact us to discuss your preferences.*
Secret Treasures of St Petersburg (5 days)

For discerning clients, a highly experienced Open Russia Tours team, all St Petersburg native, have put together a collection of most interesting secret places and special visits which are not available to the general public. Some tours will be after hours or on museums’ days off, some will provide private access to unique and exclusive treasures, which can be visited only with museum curators.

DAY 1, Wed

Arrive St Petersburg. Meet your guide and driver at the airport, transfer to hotel.

18:30-20:00 Evening visit to the General Staff Building (Hermitage branch) with the Hermitage curator: French Impressionists, famous masterpieces of Western European art of the cXIX (Germany, Holland, Belgium) and other exhibitions.

The General Staff Building, one of the most famous architectural monuments in Saint Petersburg, was designed by the architect K. I. Rossi and was built between 1820 and 1830. The project revolved around the architect’s idea to unite two separate buildings with a triumphal arch, a monument to Russia’s victory in the war of 1812. The reconstruction of the General Staff Building was started in 2008 and ended in 2014. After the restoration the collections of Russian and European decorative art, paintings and sculptures from the 19th and 20th centuries (including Impressionist and Post-impressionist paintings, Matisse, and Picasso), as well as contemporary art were displayed in the building. The exhibition includes the renovated historical interiors of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the personal apartments of the Chancellor of State.

Optional group dinner.

DAY 2, Thu

Hermitage tour with VIP priority admission led by the museum curator.

Lunch break, followed by a Private Tour of the Faberge Museum.

A privately owned museum, founded by the Link of Times foundation in 2013 in order to repatriate lost cultural valuables to Russia. The museum is located in the very center of St Petersburg - in Shuvalov Palace on the Fontanka River. The collection contains more than 4,000 works of decorative applied and fine arts, including gold and silver items, paintings, porcelain and bronze. A highlight of the museum’s collection is the group of nine Imperial Easter eggs created by Fabergé for the last two Russian Tsars.

Boat ride from the Faberge pier on rivers and canals (1 hour).

DAY 3, Fri

Trip to the Imperial Summer residence Tsarkoye Selo (Pushkin town) to visit the Catherine Palace and Amber Room. The grandiose Catherine palace is the last great Baroque Palace in Europe (1756) with a famous undulating façade, dazzling Ballroom, Rococo interiors, and the legendary Amber Room, "the eighth wonder of the world".

Amber Workshop

Tsarskoselskaya Amber Workshop is most famous for recreation of the Amber Room for the Catherine Palace. For more than thirty years this unique crew of artists-restorers has been working hard on perfecting their skills and knowledge. Hear the mystery of the lost originals, see amber being crafted and receive a small gift.

Lunch in the restaurant in the garden. Continue to the summer residence of Paul I Pavlovsk. Troika ride in the gardens.

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email: reservations@openrussiatours.com : web: www.openrussiatours.com
Paul’s Palace is shut on Fridays, but we’ll have an exclusive tour of the palace with the Chief curator.

This neoclassic palace designed by Charles Cameron and later extended by Vincenzo Brenna delivers the spirit of the 18th century to the fullest extent. You’ll be privileged to visit private rooms of Paul’s wife Maria Fedorovna, the ground floor of the Chapel with its original utensils, Gonzago Gallery, and other premises not included into public tours. The curator will switch on 18th century clocks and open secret drawers of old cabinets.

**DAY 4, Sat**

This City tour will include major architectural and historic highlights of St Petersburg, the UNESCO World Heritage site. We will visit the Mariinsky Theater, the Palace Square, St. Isaac’s Cathedral, the Spit of Vasilievsky Island, the Bronze Horseman Statue, Peter’s Log Cabin, Cruiser Aurora, Nevsky Prospect, the Square of Arts and more.

**Private visit to the Marble Palace with the curator** to the newly restored reception rooms, Marble Hall and a special opening of the living quarters of Grand Duke Konstantin.

In 1888 the palace was inherited by Grand Duke Konstantin Konstantinovich Romanov (1858–1915) – one of the most prominent figures in Russian history of the turn of the 20th century, a senator, President of the Academy of Sciences and an accomplished Russian poet who wrote under the cryptonym K. R. During his time the Marble Palace became centre of cultural life in the capital. Musical evening parties were held in Duke’s private quarters attended by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Anton Rubinstein, and other musicians. This exclusive tour takes you to the Small Drawing Room, Music Drawing Room, the Study and other rooms designed in the 1880s–1900s (15 people maximum in 1 group).

**18:00 After-hours tour of the Stroganov Palace with the curator.**

The gorgeous Stroganov Palace built between 1752-1754 on the corner of Nevsky Prospect and the River Moika used to be home for the noble Stroganov family. You’ll stroll through its magnificent rooms and have access to its most private corners: the Mineralogic Study, the Library and the Bedchamber, not yet open after restoration. You'll walk up secret staircases and open secret drawers of Stroganov's mineralogic box.

**DAY 5, Sun**

**Trip to the Imperial Summer residence Gatchina – tour of the palace with the curator.**

One of BBC’s War and Peace filming locations. This palace is still not completely restored from WWII. Besides the State rooms, exhibitions and the underground secret passage connecting the palace to the gardens, the tour includes a visit to the closed rooms of the Palace, still awaiting restoration (Greek and Chesma Galleries, the Rotunda under the coat-of-arms, the Vestibule of the Marble Staircase, the Arsenal Hall and other rooms).

The tour focuses mostly on the damage suffered by the Palace in the war, the postwar opening preparations, the problems that museum staff faced, restoration work and plans for the future.

Visit the gardens: Birch House and Venus pavilions (May – Oct), followed by Lunch.

**Day 6, Mon**

Departure.

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38
Family Tour: Travelling with Children

Moscow and St Petersburg (7 days, 6 nights)

In Moscow and St Petersburg, children of all ages will find attractions, museums, parks, theatres and even restaurants that cater especially to them.

DAY 1, Fri

Arrive Moscow, meet your guide and driver at the airport and transfer to your chosen hotel. Stay overnight in Moscow.

DAY 2, Sat

09:00 Meet your guide, depart on City tour

This Moscow City tour will include Newmaiden Nunnery, Sparrow Hills, Tverskaya Street, Poklonnaya Hill and Victory Park, Moscow river embankment and some of the stations of the famous Moscow metro system.

Not many underground systems in the world claim to be tourist destinations in their own right. The Moscow Metro is an exception: the city’s finest artists and craftsmen worked on the project in the 1930’s. The stations resemble Russian palaces with lavish chandeliers, sculptures and mosaics.

12:30 Lunch Break, followed by departure for Kolomenskoye (a suburb of Moscow)

14:15 Arrive Kolomenskoye

Kolomenskoye is former residence of the Russian tsars that was founded in the early 16th century and had been in use by the tsars until the capital of Russian was moved to St Petersburg in the early 18th century. The palace of Peter the Great’s father Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich is situated in the large park of 390 hectares.

Visit the Palace of Alexei Mikhailovich (father of Peter the Great), walk in the park. Drive back to Hotel.

DAY 3, Sun

PLEASE NOTE! It is not possible to drive on Red Square or inside Kremlin, so we have to make this a walking day.

09:30 Meet your guide, walk to Red Square

10:00 Tour of Red Square, the GUM department store, and a visit to St Basil’s Cathedral

12:00 Lunch (at Bosco café on Red Square with fantastic view of the Kremlin walls)

13:30 Tour of the Kremlin and 2 cathedrals, including the Assumption Cathedral

Optional: visit to the Armoury Chamber

15:30 Return to hotel

18:00 Transfer to the Circus / Moscow Cats Theatre

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19:00</td>
<td>Circus performance at the Moscow circus named after Yuri Nikulin / OR a performance in Moscow Cats Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22:00</td>
<td>Return to the hotel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DAY 4, Mon**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Check out of the hotel, meet your guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09:45</td>
<td>Tour of the Moscow Planetarium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Moscow Planetarium is one of the largest in the world and the oldest planetarium in Russia opened in 1929. A tour of the Planetarium consists of the visits of the Large Star Hall & Interactive Museum ‘Lunarium’.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Transfer to Moscow railway station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Fast train Sapsan departure for St Petersburg (lunch onboard the train)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:30</td>
<td>Arrive St Petersburg, meet guide on the platform and transfer to your hotel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Optional boat-ride on canals in the evening (1 hour)*

**DAY 5, Tue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Visit the Cathedral of the Spilled Blood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Visit the Grand Maquette of Russia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Grand Maquette of Russia is a new museum that opened just a few years ago. It shows the largest country in the world in small scale - the size of the maquette is 800 sq. meters. It is divided into interconnected areas that depict the country from the Far East to the Kaliningrad region with miniature detail.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17:30</td>
<td>Return to hotel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evening at leisure.

**DAY 6, Wed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Meet your guide, drive to Peterhof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>Tour of Peterhof, the lower park with its 150 fountains and Royal Bathhouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45</td>
<td>Lunch (set lunch in the Orangerie restaurant in the park of Peterhof)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30</td>
<td>Hydrofoil ride back to the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Arrive St Petersburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00-16:30</td>
<td>Tour of the main part of the Hermitage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Return to the hotel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DAY 7, Thu**

Departure and transfer to the airport.

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From Revolution to Soviet Empire

In the early 20th century Russia endured several revolutions waged against the Tsarist autocracy. The old regime fell and gave rise to a new formation, the Soviet Union. All Russian revolutions including the last one in 1917 took place in Saint Petersburg (Petrograd, city name in 1914-1924). Take this tour and visit the key sites of the revolutionary events that had effect on the course of history of Russia and the entire world.

**DAY 1 - WHERE IT TOOK PLACE**

City tour with photo stops and a visit to the cruiser Aurora

In the afternoon visit Palace Square and the Winter Palace (learn the exiting story of the storming of the palace in 1917).

**DAY 2 – REVOLUTIONARY SPOTS OF SAINT PETERSBURG**

Drive to Finland Railway Station to view Lenin's monument and Lenin's locomotive.

*The station is famously known for the arrival of Vladimir Lenin by train from Germany on 3 April 1917 to start the October Revolution. The event is commemorated by the Soviet statue of Lenin (making a speech on top of the armed car) dominating the square in front of the station.*

*Later Lenin had to flee to Finland for safety, to avoid arrest, and returned to this station again on 9 August 1917. Both times he crossed the Russian-Finnish border on the steam locomotive 293. It is now installed as a permanent exhibit at one of the platforms on the station.*

In the afternoon continue to Tauride Palace – a seat of the Provisional government (outside) and visit Smolny Institute, headquarters of revolution in 1917 and central location Bolshevik leaders.

**DAY 3 - POLITICAL PRISON AND MORE**

The City tour continues to the Monument to the founder of KGB Felix Dzerzhinsky and takes you by the exterior of the "Bolshoi House" – a former KGB building.

*Bolshoy House (Bolshoy Dom) became the local headquarters for the Committee for State Security (KGB) when it replaced the NKVD, and remained under KGB usage until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. At present, it is used as a branch of the Federal Security Service of Russia (FSB) and Main Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.*

The morning programme ends with a visit to Peter and Paul Fortress, former political prison in Russia

*Peter-and Paul Cathedral is a burial ground of the Romanov Imperial dynasty, the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II and his family were buried there in 1998.*

*Museum of Political History of Russia*

*The Museum is located in the former private mansion of Matilda Kshesinskaya, prime-ballerina of Mariinsky Theatre. In 1917 this building briefly became headquarters of the Bolsheviks and Lenin’s office. His memorial apartment is unchanged since Soviet days.*

*The Museum keeps a number of evidences of Russia’s political life from the late 19th till the early 21st century. They reflect the history of the state system reforming, fates of the most prominent historical figures, processes of development of revolutionary, democratic, social and political movements and parties.*
DAY 4 - HOW THEY LIVED: FROM PALACES OF ARISTOCRACY TO APARTMENTS OF BOLSHEVIKS

Visit Yusupov Palace on the Moika River, home of the noble and wealthy Yusupov family, where Grigory Rasputin was murdered by Felix Yusupov just before revolution.

'Flat' Museums of the Alliluyev and the Elizarov families

Those interested in the biography of Vladimir Lenin will certainly enjoy a visit to the Elizarov Flat-Museum. Before 1916 it was the home of Lenin's sister Anna and her husband Mark Elizarov, a revolutionary and later a Soviet politician. In April 1917 Lenin and his wife Nadezhda Krupskaya came to stay here. Although they lived in the flat for only three months, Lenin wrote about 150 works there.

Another address with links to the revolution is the Alliluyev Flat Museum. Joseph Stalin, who was married to Alliluyev's youngest daughter Nadezhda, lived here for a time. Among those who visited the flat were Lenin and his wife Krupskaya.

DAY 5 - OUTSIDE SAINT PETERSBURG

This morning we drive to Kronstadt Island – revolutionary sailors’ town. Visit to the newly restored St. Nicholas’s Cathedral.

Crossing the Gulf of Finland on a damp, we arrive to settlement Razliv to visit Shalash and Sarai museums, secret hiding places used by Lenin.

In summer of 1917 Lenin, to escape detection, disguised himself as a haymaker and stayed in sarai (the wooden shed) and in a small shalash (straw cabin) where he worked on his book 'State and Revolution'. A reconstructed copy of the historic cabin and a pavilion, also called 'Shalash', features Lenin related exhibits and temporary exhibitions. The shed was restored to the 100-year anniversary of Lenin and protected with a glass case.

PLEASE NOTE: All visits are subject to change due to days off at Museums.

Please note: This is an example itinerary. Please call us directly to discuss your preferences and confirm your itinerary and tour cost.
Georgia (Tbilisi, Kakheti) Tour Itinerary (7 Days)

DAY 1

Arrival at Tbilisi

Transfer to Hotel and check in

DAY 2

Lecture at the Hotel conference room

Morning walking tour. Observation and visits to the most important Tbilisi sights:

• **The Sioni Cathedral of the Dormition**, the Georgian Orthodox cathedral in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. Following a medieval Georgian tradition of naming churches after particular places in the Holy Land, the Sioni Cathedral bears the name of Mount Zion at Jerusalem. It is commonly known as the "Tbilisi Sioni" to distinguish it from several other churches across Georgia bearing the name Sioni.

• **The Narikala**, an ancient fortress overlooking Tbilisi and the Mtkvari River. The fortress was established in the 4th century. Most of the extant fortifications date from the 16th and 17th centuries. In 1827, parts of the fortress were damaged by an earthquake and demolished.

• **The Anchiskhati Basilica of St Mary**, According to the old Georgian annals, the church was built by the King Dachi of Iberia (circa 522-534) who had made Tbilisi his capital. Originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it was renamed Anchiskhati (i.e., icon of Ancha) in 1675 when the treasured icon of the Savior created by the twelfth-century goldsmith Beka Opizari at the Ancha monastery in Klarjeti (now part of Northeastern Turkey) was moved to Tbilisi so preserve it from the Ottoman invasion. The icon was preserved at the Basilica of St Mary for centuries (it is now on display at the Art Museum of Georgia).

Lunch

After lunch pay a visit to **The Georgian National Gallery** established in 1920. Dimitri Shevardnadze, a well-known Georgian painter, contributed significantly to the development of the gallery. Since its foundation, the gallery has served the development of Georgian fine arts.

Afternoon programme also includes **The Giorgi Chitaia Open Air Museum of Ethnography**, an open-air museum in Tbilisi, which displays the examples of folk architecture and craftwork from various regions of the country. The museum is named after Giorgi Chitaia, the Georgian ethnographer, who founded the museum on April 27, 1966. Since December 30, 2004, it has been administered as part of the Georgian National Museum.

DAY 3

Morning transfer from Hotel to **Mtskheta**

Stop at the **Jvari Monastery** on the way. At the top of the mountain above the ancient capital Mtskheta, city of the Iberia Kingdom where the Kura and Aragvi rivers merge, towers the monastery of Jvari - the first monument of Georgia, inscribed on the **UNESCO World Heritage List** as one of the best masterpieces of medieval Georgian architecture.

Arrival at **Mtskheta**, the ancient capital of Georgia. The city was founded in the second half of the first millennium and is one of the most visited places in Georgia. Due to its historical significance and...
several cultural monuments, Mtskheta was stated as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](http://www.unesco.org). Being a birthplace of Christianity in Georgia and one of the most vibrant religious centers, Mtskheta was declared as the "Holy City".

Visit the [Svetitskhoveli Cathedral](http://www.svetitskhoveli.org) - the main historic cathedral of the whole Georgia. Many legends are associated with this cathedral, but they all have a common content telling that Svetitskhoveli was built on the site where the shirt that Jesus wore during crucifixion was buried. In Georgian its name – ‘Svetitskhoveli’ means ‘Life-giving pillar’.

**Lunch**

**Transfer to Tbilisi**

Visit [The Georgian National Museum](http://www.georgia-museum.ge) established at the end of 2004 which preserves the nation’s rich, authentic content of cultural heritage. The Museum mission is to manage the nation’s collections, both material and living, and to expand and sustain access to its treasures for current and future generations.

Visit the [Armenian District](http://www.armeniandistrict.ge) and the [Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi (Sameba)](#). Sameba is the residence of the Archbishop of the Georgian Orthodox Church. Constructed between 1995 and 2004, it is the third tallest Eastern Orthodox cathedral in the world and one of the largest religious buildings in the world by its total area. Sameba is a synthesis of traditional styles dominating the Georgian church architecture at various stages in history and some Byzantine undertones.

**DAY 4**

**Morning transfer from hotel to Gori**

**Arrival at Uplistsikhe (God’s Fortress).** An ancient cave city and one of the first cities on the territory of Georgia, Uplistsikhe is carved in a rock located 12 km east of the town of Gori on the left bank of the Kura River.

**Lunch at a family wine cellar in Gori,** tasting of Georgian wine and Chacha, with the Georgian traditional dishes.

After lunch visit [The Joseph Stalin Museum in Gori](http://www.josephstalinmuseum.ge), a historical museum in Georgia devoted to the life of the most famous native of the city, who became the head of the Soviet government and led the Soviet Union from 1925 to 1953. Opened in 1937.

**Arrival to the Chateau Mukhrani** (wine Tasting, tour & dinner). Ivane Mukhranbatoni began the construction of this castle in 1873, and it took 12 years to complete this project. The castle and surrounding gardens were designed by French architects and Versailles gardeners.

The huge venue was a cultural centre for the Georgian elite. Ivane Mukhranbatoni hosted many guests including famous Georgian public figures, great writers and poets such as Ilia Chavchavadze and Akaki Tsereteli, along with the Russian Emperor of the time. The castle was famous for its Italian gilded furniture and the first European parquet in Georgia. Now it contains a winery. Underground cellars comprise 20 compartments and the main tunnel connects the winery and the castle. To compliment the modern winery the Chateau cellar was restored to its original historical design. Today the cellar stores 60,000 barrels of wine at a constant fifteen degrees C temperature.

**Return to Tbilisi**

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DAY 5

Morning transfer to Kakheti

Visit the Monastery of St. Nino at Bodbe, constructed in the 4th century AD, on the tomb of St. Nino who introduced Christianity in Georgia. The Georgian king Demetre I played an important role in decoration of the monastery. Bodbe monastery was renovated many times by the Georgian kings. In the end of 1990s a tub for ritual bathes and a small church were built around the spring of water which emerged through the prayers of St. Nino. The church was named after her parents – St. Zabulon and St. Sosana.

Lunch in Sighnaghi

Sighnaghi (City of love) a small town in the east of Georgia situated on the mountainside in the historical region of Kakheti. It was founded in the 17th century during the reign of King Heraclius II of Georgia, and as locals say, it is the only city in Georgia that has fully preserved its fortress walls that are crowned with watchtowers, where one can climb to get the magnificent view of the Alazan valley.

Sightseeing in Signagi includes a visit to The Signagi Museum, established in 2007. It is the first high standard museum in Georgia. The Museum exhibits archeology, ethnography and medieval expositions. The Signagi Museum features diverse ethnographic material: musical instruments, weapons, vestments and items reflecting the lifestyle of this town. Medieval expositions include samples of the 4th-18th cc. Displayed are 16 paintings by Niko Pirosmanashvili.

Sightseeing is followed by wine tasting and light early dinner at the Morani Cradle of Wine vineyard

Drive to at the Kvareli Lake Hotel and check in

DAY 6

Morning transfer to Telavi

Sightseeing in Telavi will include:

- **Batonis Tsikhe (the Master’s Fortress)**, the residence of Kakheti with the area of 3 ha is located In downtown Telavi. Its territory embraces: the fence (constructed under the king of Kakheti Erekle II in 1753), the Royal Palace (constructed in the 60s of the 17thI century by king Archil; in 1865 the Women’s College of St. Nino opened in this building and the Palace was remade into a three-level building; today - the Telavi museum), the bath (in southern part bathing room and boiler are preserved; walls of the bath were painted), and two churches (Small Church and Church of the Court of Erekle II, built in 1758, the latter being simultaneously a defense facility – it has gun emplacements). To the south-west from the citadel, in tens of meters there is a big abutment (diameter – 14 m). Up to the 40s of the 19th century a big 7,5 m long cannon stood on it.

- **The Ikalto Monastery** was founded by Saint Zenon, one of the 13 Syrian Fathers, in the late 6th century. It was known as one of the most significant cultural-scholastic centers of Georgia. An academy was founded at the monastery during king David the Builder by Arsen Ikaltoeli (Ikaltoeli meaning from Ikalto) in the early 12th century. According to a legend the famous 12th century Georgian poet Shota Rustaveli studied there.

Lunch

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After lunch visit the **Alaverdi Monastery**, a Georgian Eastern Orthodox monastery. While parts of the monastery date back to 6th century, the present-day cathedral was built in the 11th century by Kviriike III of Kakheti, replacing an older church of St. George. The monastery was founded by the Assyrian monk Joseph (Yoseb, Amba) Alaverdeli, who came from Antioch and settled in Alaverdi, a small village and former pagan religious center dedicated to the Moon. At a height of over 55 meters, Alaverdi Cathedral was the tallest religious building in Georgia, until the construction of the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi in 2004.

**Return to Tbilisi by the Gombori road**

**Check in Hotel**

**Farewell dinner**

**DAY 7**

**Transfer to the airport**
Georgia (Kutaisi, Tbilisi, Kakheti) Tour Itinerary (8 Days)

**DAY 1**

**Arrival at Kutaisi**

Transfer from airport to the Hotel

Check in to the Hotel

**DAY 2**

**Lecture** in the Hotel conference room

**Kutaisi City** is located in the Rioni River valley. In the beginning of the 20th century, this place was a small quiet provincial town. With the Soviet influence Kutaisi became a huge industrial center. Today it is the second most important city in Georgia.

Sightseeing in Kutaisi includes:

- **Gelati** - a medieval monastic complex near Kutaisi, in the Imereti region of Western Georgia. A masterpiece of the Georgian Golden Age, Gelati was founded in 1106 by King David IV of Georgia and is recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

- **Bagrati Cathedral** - the 11th-century cathedral in the city of Kutaisi. Regarded as a great example of medieval architecture, the cathedral suffered heavy damage throughout centuries and was reconstructed to its present state through a gradual restoration process which started in the 1950s, with major conservation works concluding in 2012.

- **Okros Chardakhi (Golden Marquee)**, the only surviving structure of the 17th-18th-century palace of the Imereti kings.

**Lunch**

After lunch continue sightseeing in Kutaisi:

Return to the hotel

**Welcome dinner in Kutaisi in a traditional Georgian restaurant**

**DAY 3**

**Morning transfer to Gori**

Coffee break at a restaurant on the way to Gori – at own expense

Arrival at Gori, visit to **The Joseph Stalin Museum**, a historical museum in Georgia devoted to the life of the most famous native of the city, who became the head of the Soviet government and led the Soviet Union from 1925 to 1953. Opened in 1937.

**Lunch - visit to a family wine cellar in Gori** tasting of Georgian wine and Chacha, with Georgian traditional dishes.

**Visit to Uplistsikhe (God’s Fortress)**. Uplistsikhe is an ancient cave city, one of the first cities on the territory of Georgia. Uplistsikhe is carved in a rock located 12 km east of the town of Gori on the left bank of the Kura River.

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47
**Open Russia Tours 2020**

**Arrive at the Chateau Mukhrani (wine tasting, tour and dinner).** The construction of the castle started in 1873 by Ivane Mukhranbatoni; the castle was designed by French architects and it took 12 years to complete the project. The surrounding gardens were designed by a Versailles gardener. Both castle and grounds captured visitors' attention. The huge venue was a cultural centre for the Georgian elite. Ivane Mukhranbatoni hosted many guests including famous Georgian public figures, great writers and poets such as Ilia Chavchavadze and Akaki Tsereteli, along with the Russian Emperor of that time. The castle was famous for its Italian gilded furniture and the first European parquet in Georgia.

In those days the castle contained a winery. Underground cellars comprised 20 compartments. The main tunnel connected the winery and the castle. To compliment the modern winery the chateau cellar was restored to its original historical design. Today the cellar stores 60,000 barrels of wine at a constant fifteen degrees Celsius temperature. Dinner in the best Georgian traditions is included.

**Arrival at Tbilisi. Check in Hotel**

**DAY 4**

**Lecture** at the Hotel conference room

**Morning walking tour** to include:

- **The Sioni Cathedral of the Dormition**, a Georgian Orthodox Cathedral in Tbilisi. Following a medieval Georgian tradition of naming churches after particular places in the Holy Land, the Sioni Cathedral bears the name of Mount Zion in Jerusalem. It is commonly known as the "Tbilisi Sioni" to distinguish it from several other churches across Georgia bearing the name Sioni.

- **The Anchiskhati Basilica of St Mary.** According to the old Georgian annals, the church was built by the King Dachi of Iberia (circa 522-534) who had made Tbilisi his capital. Originally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, it was renamed Anchiskhati (i.e., icon of Ancha) in 1675 when the treasured icon of the Savior created by the twelfth-century goldsmith Beka Opizari at the Ancha monastery in Klarjeti (now part of Northeastern Turkey) was moved to Tbilisi so preserve it from the Ottoman invasion. The icon was preserved at the Basilica of St Mary for centuries (it is now on display at the Art Museum of Georgia).

- **The Narikala**, an ancient fortress overlooking Tbilisi and the Mtkvari River. The fortress was established in the 4th century. Most of the extant fortifications date from the 16th and 17th centuries. In 1827, parts of the fortress were damaged by an earthquake and demolished.

**Lunch**

After lunch pay a visit to **The Georgian National Gallery** established in 1920. Dimitri Shevardnadze, a well-known Georgian painter, contributed significantly to the development of the gallery. Since its foundation, the gallery has served the development of Georgian fine arts.

Also visit **The Giorgi Chitaia Open Air Museum of Ethnography**, an open-air museum in Tbilisi, displaying the examples of folk architecture and craft-work from various regions of the country. The museum is named after Giorgi Chitaia, the Georgian ethnographer, who founded the museum on April 27, 1966. Since December 30, 2004, it has been administered as part of the Georgian National Museum.

**Dinner - traditional Georgian feast with Georgian toastmaster and traditional folk show, Georgian dancing and choir singing**

**DAY 5**

Morning transfer from Hotel to **Mtskheta**

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Stop at the Jvari Monastery. At the top of the mountain above the ancient capital Mtskheta, city of the Iberia Kingdom, where Kura and Aragvi rivers merge, towers the monastery of Jvari - the first monument of Georgia, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as one of the best masterpieces of medieval Georgian architecture.

Arrival at Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia. The city was founded in the second half of the first millennium. This place is one of the most visited places in Georgia. Due to its historical significance and several cultural monuments, Mtskheta was stated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As the birthplace of Christianity in Georgia and one of the most vibrant religious centers, Mtskheta was declared as the "Holy City".

Visit the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral - the main historic cathedral of the whole Georgia. Many legends are connected with this cathedral, but they all tell the same story saying that Svetitskhoveli was built on the site where the shirt that Jesus wore during the crucifixion was buried. The Cathedral got its name - "Svetitskhoveli" from Georgian - "Life-giving pillar".

Lunch

Return to Tbilisi

Upon arrival, visit The Georgian National Museum established at the end of 2004 which preserves the nation’s rich, authentic content of cultural heritage. The Museum mission is to expand and sustain access to national treasures, both material and living, for current and future generations.

Continue to the Armenian District and the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi (Sameba). Sameba is the residence of the Archbishop of the Georgian Orthodox Church. Constructed between 1995 and 2004, it is the third tallest Eastern Orthodox cathedral in the world and one of the largest religious buildings in the world by its total area. This structure is a synthesis of traditional styles dominating the Georgian church architecture at various stages in history and some Byzantine undertones.

**DAY 6**

Drive to Kakheti

Stop on the way in a small Georgian village Badiauri - degustation of freshly baked bread and traditional cheese.

Arrive at The Monastery of St. Nino at Bodbe constructed in 4th century AD, on the tomb of St. Nino who introduced Christianity in Georgia. The Georgian king Demetre I played an important role in decoration of the monastery. Bodbe monastery was renovated many times by the Georgian kings. In the end of 1990s a tub for ritual bashes and a small church were built around the spring of water which emerged through the prayers of St. Nino. The church was named after her parents – St. Zabulon and St. Sosana.

Lunch in Sighnaghi

Sighnaghi (City of Love), a small town in the east of Georgia situated on the mountainside in the historical region of Kakheti. It was founded in the 17th century during the reign of King Heraclius II of Georgia, and as locals say, it is the only city in Georgia that has fully preserved its fortress walls that are crowned with watchtowers, where one can climb to get the magnificent view of the Alazan valley.

Sightseeing in Signagi includes a visit to The Signagi Museum, established in 2007. It is the first high standard museum in Georgia and exhibits archeology, ethnography and medieval expositions. The Signagi Museum features diverse ethnographic material: musical instruments, weapons, vestments and items.
reflecting the lifestyle of this town. Medieval expositions include samples of the C4th-18th. Displayed are 16 paintings by Niko Pirosmanashvili.

Sightseeing is followed by wine tasting and light early dinner at the Morani Cradle of Wine vineyard

Drive to the Kvareli Lake Hotel and check in

DAY 7

Morning transfer to Telavi

Sightseeing in Telavi includes:

- **Batonis Tsikhe (Master’s Fortress)**, residence of Kakheti with the area of 3 ha, located in downtown Telavi. Its territory embraces: the fence (constructed under the king of Kakheti Erekle II in 1753), Royal Palace (constructed in the 60s of 17th century by king Archil; in 1865, women’s college of St. Nino opened in this building and the Palace was remade into a three-level building; today - Telavi museum), bath (in southern part bathing room and boiler are preserved; walls of the bath were painted), and two churches (Small Church and Church of the Court of Erekle II, built in 1758, the latter being simultaneously a defense facility – it has gun emplacements). To the southwest from the citadel, in tens of meters there is a big abutment (diameter – 14m). Up to the 40s of the 19th century a big 7.5m long cannon stood on it.

- **The Ikalto Monastery** founded by Saint Zenon, one of the 13 Syrian Fathers, in the late 6th century. It was known as one of the most significant cultural-scholastic centres of Georgia. An academy was founded at the monastery during king David the Builder by Arsen Ikaltoeli (Ikaltoeli meaning from Ikalto) in the early 12th century. According to a legend the famous 12th century Georgian poet Shota Rustaveli studied there.

Lunch

After lunch visit the Alaverdi Monastery - a Georgian Eastern Orthodox monastery. While parts of the monastery date back to 6th century, the present-day cathedral was built in the 11th century by Kvirike III of Kakheti, replacing an older church of St. George. The monastery was founded by the Assyrian monk Joseph (Yoseb, Amba) Alaverdeli, who came from Antioch and settled in Alaverdi, which was a small village and former pagan religious center dedicated to the Moon. At a height of over 55 meters, Alaverdi Cathedral was the tallest religious building in Georgia, until the construction of the Holy Trinity Cathedral of Tbilisi in 2004.

Return to Tbilisi by the Gombori road

Check in to Hotel

Farewell dinner in a restaurant

DAY 8

Transfer to the airport

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Recommended Hotels

All of the hotels in this section are known to us and come highly recommended. Please call or email us with your specific requirements and we will handle all bookings and related services for you.

St Petersburg 5 Star Hotels

Astoria Hotel

The Astoria Hotel is ideally located in the centre of St Petersburg, overlooking the landmark St Isaac’s Cathedral and within easy walking distance of the world famous Hermitage museum and Mariinsky Theatre. The hotel has 169 rooms, many with a view over St Isaac’s Square and the Cathedral.

Dining within the hotel is at the Astoria Café Restaurant, Rotonda Lounge and Lichfield Bar, situated on the ground floor and offering a wide choice of Russian and European cuisine. There are 6 meeting rooms and two large halls Winter Garden (110 sq m) and The Ball room (250 sq m) for up to 300 pax. Check in at 14:00, check out 12:00.

Grand Hotel Europe Belmond

The Grand Hotel Europe Belmond enjoys an exceptional location in the heart of historic St Petersburg on Nevsky Prospect, the city’s main shopping street.

The embodiment of grand Russian style, the Grand Hotel Europe Belmond is the ultimate in luxury and timeless glamour. The hotel has 275 breathtaking rooms and suites inspired by Russia’s grand imperial age, with many named after very special guests of the hotel, such as the Tchaikovsky Suite, Faberge Suite, Pavarotti Suite and Stravinsky Suite.

The Grand Hotel Europe has six bars and restaurants to choose from, embracing a unique collection of St Petersburg’s most fashionable dining experiences. The hotel has 5 conference halls with a maximum capacity of 100. Check-in at 14:00, check-out by 12:00.
Lotte Hotel St Petersburg

The luxury brand new Lotte Hotel St Petersburg is situated in the historical mansion built in 1851 and occupies one of the city’s most prestigious locations – St Isaac’s square. Nestled in the middle of the famous sightseeing attractions Lotte Hotel St. Petersburg is close to the main street of the city Nevsky prospect, world-known Hermitage museum and famous Mariinsky theatre.

Providing luxury base near major landmarks and many business districts Lotte Hotel St. Petersburg is the best hotel, whether for business or leisure. Unique materials, sophisticated combination of colours and interior items, luxurious view for one of the central city squares – Lotte Hotel St. Petersburg is the place to fall in love at first sight. For classic admirers who wish to enjoy tsarist atmosphere of Northern Venice, Lotte Hotel St Petersburg offers rooms decorated in classical style with a charming view on St. Isaac’s Square. And for those who appreciate modern tendencies we have rooms reinventing traditional luxury to present modern evoke.

Four Seasons Lion Palace

The Four Seasons Lion Palace is located in the very heart of St Petersburg – on the beautiful St. Isaac’s Square and the State Hermitage and Palace Square are just a couple of blocks away. The hotel offers 177 spacious and comfortable guest rooms, including 26 suites, featuring state-of-the art amenities to satisfy the needs of the most discerning customers.

There is a great choice of dining at the hotel. Percorso is a fine Italian restaurant, run by Michelin-starred Executive Chef Andrea Accordi, a chef with a wealth of international experience. There is also Sintroho, an Asian restaurant and the Tea Lounge, an all-day café/restaurant that provides a sunny setting for breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea or a light supper menu. The main bar, Xander Bar, named after Russian Tsar Alexander I, boasts a double-faced fire place and lovely views to the Admiralty.

The hotel is also home to a sumptuous four-level SPA facility within one of the Lion Palace’s original courtyards with Russian steam rooms, six treatment rooms offering the finest international skincare and massage treatments, a unique triangular relaxation pool under the sunlit glass dome, and a 24-hour fitness center. There are 7 conference rooms from 38 to 353 sq m. Check-in is at 15:00, check-out 12:00.

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Taleon Imperial Hotel

The Taleon Imperial Hotel is located in the historical center of St Petersburg, in the former palace of the noble Eliseev family. It is one of the few hotels in the city which provides accommodation in a tsarist era palace. The hotel is in a five-minute walk from the Palace Square, the State Hermitage Museum, St. Isaac’s Cathedral and the Kazan Cathedral.

The Taleon Imperial Hotel is a full complex of five-star hospitality services. The Hotel offers about 200 magnificent suites and rooms in different standards of splendor. Each suite and room was individually designed and decorated with the finest Italian furnishings and hand-painted reproductions of masterpieces from major art museums, such as the State Hermitage Museum, Russian Museum, and others. Inside each suite and room you will find everything to meet your exclusive needs.

SO Sofitel Hotel

Conceptualized by award-winning architects Antonio Citterio, Patricia Viel and Partners, the SO Sofitel St Petersburg is located in the center of the city next to St. Isaac’s Cathedral, a stone's throw from the lavish Winter Palace, the famed Hermitage Museum, and a short stroll from the spectacular Neva River. The hotel offers 137 modern guest rooms and suites. In summer, guests are invited for dinner and cocktails to a rooftop terrace/bar.

The hotel has 170 sq. meters of meeting space that will comfortably accommodate a small gathering, business meeting or private screening (max. capacity 50). Check-in is at 15:00, check-out: 12:00.
Sokos Hotel Palace Bridge

The Palace Bridge is the only 5* Sokos hotel in St Petersburg that is located on Vasilievsk Island, next to the main building of the St Petersburg State University. Sokos Hotel Palace Bridge offers something entirely new to the city’s diverse selection of hotels. The spa complex adjoined to the hotel and the Day Spa offers peacefulness and pampering to those who value holistic well-being.

Guests will find 271 luxurious hotel rooms housed inside the walls of the old, esteemed building. What is special about them is their size, with each offering 28 square metres of space (over 300 sq ft). La Carte Restaurant features top-quality, flavourful food, the Sports Lounge is a popular bar, and the Ladies’ Wine Bar is the first meeting place in St Petersburg designed for women.

Kempinski Hotel, Moika 22

Kempinks Hotel Moika 22 is located in the very city center, in a minute’s walk from Hermitage. There are 200 rooms and suites over 9 floors, of which 119 are Superior class.

There is a great choice of dining, with the Bellevue Brasserie offering international cuisine with panoramic views over the St Petersburg cityscape, the Beau Rivage for Buffet Breakfast, the Wine Cellar 1853, which offers an outstanding wine collection and rare cognacs and the Tea Room, for the best English afternoon tea but with a Russian accent.

Corinthia Nevsky Palace

Corinthia Nevsky Palace became one of the first 5* hotels opened in St Petersburg in 1990-s. The hotel changed its owners several times since then, but now it is in the safe hand of its current Maltese owners.

There are 2 blocks in the hotel – business and deluxe. Recently added deluxe block offers great variety of conference facilities and beautifully decorated rooms of different categories from deluxe up to the King and President Suites. The hotel is situated on the main street Nevsky Prospect. It has more than 300 rooms and suites and services and facilities are excellent, including a business centre, fitness centre, shopping arcade. There is a good choice for dining in the hotel, at the Admiralty restaurant, Imperial restaurant and café Vienna.
St Petersburg, Four Star Hotels

Wynwood Hotel

The 4 star WYNWOOD Hotel is contemporary and spacious with 38 modern rooms in the Loft Style. It occupies a historic building at the heart of Saint Petersburg which still retains the character of the Imperial era. The distinctive hotel design is inspired by the Wynwood Art District of Miami. The hotel’s central location and impeccable service ensures you always return with ease and comfort after a long day exploring the city of Saint Petersburg.

The Jungle Café provides a tasty culinary experience in a tropical garden ambience. Breakfast is prepared from fresh ingredients and served daily from 7.30 am to 4 pm. The main menu is composed in the ‘fine casual’ or ‘cosmopolitan’ style, and the restaurant’s wine list perfectly complements the restaurant’s signature dishes. During summer one can enjoy fantastic views of the Singer House, Kazan Cathedral and the Church on the Spilled Blood from the rooftop bar.

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Dom Boutique Hotel

The 5 star Dom Boutique Hotel is a part of Authentic Hotels & Cruises. Its central location is 100 yards from the Fontanka River Embankment, 0.5 mile from the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood and a 3 minute walk from Summer Garden. Hermitage Museum and Palace Square are only 0.9 miles from Dom Boutique Hotel, Nevsky Prospekt is in 0.6 mile, and Kazan Cathedral is 1.9 miles away. Pulkovo International Airport is 13 miles from Dom Boutique Hotel. The nearest metro station, Chernyshevskaya, is only a 10 minute walk. Free WiFi is available throughout the property.

All rooms feature a flat-screen TV and a mini-bar. A private bathroom comes with a hairdryer and free toiletries. Some rooms offer a seating area and views over the river or garden. Guests are welcome to dine and have a drink at the on-site restaurant and bar. Various cafes and restaurants can be found near the Hotel.

There is a 24-hour front desk, TV lounge and library at the property. Conference halls and business meeting facilities are available. The hotel also offers a car hiring service. Shuttle bus service can be arranged at surcharge.

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The Petr Hotel is located in the heart of Saint Petersburg, just a 2-minute walk from the Hermitage Museum. Each room will provide you with a TV, air conditioning and satellite channels. Free WiFi access is available in all rooms and public areas. Private bathrooms come with a shower, hairdryer and free toiletries. One can enjoy a city view from the rooms.

There is a 24-hour front desk and a bar with an on-site restaurant serving European cuisine. Other facilities offered at the property include a lounge, a ticket service and a tour desk. Admiralteyskiy District is renowned for its many beautiful cathedrals, and Admiralteyskaya Metro Station is only a 5 minute walk. Moskovsky Train Station is 1.9 miles away and Pulkovo International Airport is 12 miles from the Hotel.
The Majestic Boutique Hotel 4* Deluxe invites international discerning guests to rest in its comfortable and luxurious rooms. This elegant and exquisite hotel with affable staff and cosy atmosphere will help you experience the best traditions of local hospitality.

The name of the hotel, Majestic, reveals its philosophy. It defines a special attitude to each and everyone of its guests emphasizing his or her status and personality.

The unique location in the centre of cultural and business life of the city makes it easy to plan your journey and spend an unforgettable time on the banks of the Neva.

Majestic Boutique Hotel Deluxe offers accommodations in one of its 74 spacious rooms designed in a modern European style.

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Angleterre Hotel

The Angleterre hotel has a perfect location, just in the heart of the city, facing the magnificent Saint Isaac’s Cathedral. It is a great place to stay for discovering the history and romance of the city. In the Hotel you will find all comfort and convenience one would expect from an international Deluxe 4 star hotel. The Angleterre Hotel offers 192 rooms including 5 suites. Guests are also welcome to relax in the fitness center with its indoor pool, gym, sauna and beauty salon. The Hotel shares facilities (restaurants, business center and fitness center) with the adjacent 5 star Astoria hotel. Both hotels belong to the Rocco Forte chain.

Golden Triangle Boutique Hotel

This stylish boutique hotel is situated in the very heart of St Petersburg, just 50 meters away from Nevsky prospect. The hotel’s name, Golden Triangle, means that this hotel is minutes away from the major city sights.

Located within a 19th-century building, Golden Triangle hotel has got 66 rooms of 6 different categories. All rooms are equipped with air-conditioning, flat-screen TVs, minibars and free Wi-fi. The private bathrooms come with hair dryers, slippers and free toiletries. Breakfast is served in the breakfast room on the 2nd floor of the hotel. The new specious reception that faces Bolshaya Konushennaya Street has been recently redone, and the opening of a new restaurant is coming soon.

Rossi Boutique

Featuring a classic, 19th century design, this boutique hotel is situated by the Fontanka River, within 400 metres of Nevsky Prospekt, Gostiny Dvor Metro and Ostrovsky Square.

The Rossi Boutique Hotel offers individually decorated rooms with a flat-screen TV, free Wi-Fi and antique-style furnishings. All standard rooms face the quiet internal courtyard. Guests enjoy free international phone calls, and small pets are welcome on request. As well as a buffet breakfast, excellent European, Asian and Japanese cuisine is served in the Fiolet Restaurant. Enjoy drinks at our stylish bar or take them outside, to our terrace seating area.

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The Rossi’s ticket office offers day-trip tour to the city and surrounding country. Books and board games are available in the elegant Rossi Lounge, which features dimmed lighting, candles and an antique fireplace. Nearby Nevsky Prospekt offers a selection of shops, cafés and restaurants. The well-known Alexandrinsky Theatre is just a few minutes’ walk away.

**Petro Palace Hotel**

The Petro Palace is ideally located in the very heart of the city, a minute’s walk from St Isaac’s Cathedral and 10 minutes’ walk from the Hermitage. We offer 194 guest rooms - from comfortable Superior to spacious Executive or luxuriously appointed Deluxe. We have nine meeting rooms, a business center and provide audio-visual services. Enjoy fine Italian dining with family or colleagues at our restaurant Trattoria Settimo Cielo, with a view over the rooftops of the city.

**Sokos Hotel Vasilievsky**

Sokos Hotel Vasilievsky is situated in the historical centre of St Petersburg, on the 8th Line of Vasilievsky Island, close to the embankment of the Neva River. The most famous landmarks of St Petersburg, the Hermitage Museum, St. Isaac’s Cathedral and the Admiralty, are located just across the river.

The comfortable rooms of Sokos Hotel Vasilievsky are elegantly decorated with warm colors to help make you feel at home. The hotel has an Italian-American restaurant, pub, gym and sauna and five meeting rooms.

**The Courtyard by Marriott St Petersburg Center West Pushkin**
The Courtyard by Marriott St Petersburg Center West Pushkin Hotel is located on the banks of the Griboyedov Canal, in the heart of the historical and cultural center, minutes away from Mariinsky Theatre and St. Nicholas Cathedral. The Hotel offers 273 spacious deluxe rooms and offers for your convenience with business center, free WiFi internet access and 9 conference rooms.

Guests can also enjoy a choice of Russian and European cuisine in Poema Restaurant and sample own fresh-brewed beer in Bierstube. The Hotel is 13 km from Pulkovo Airport.

The Ambassador Hotel

The Ambassador Hotel is located in the historic center of St Petersburg, a 7-minute walk away from Sadovaya (‘Sennaya Ploschad’) metro station. We have 251 comfortable rooms in a variety of categories: Economy, Standard, Superior, Studio, Demi-Suite, Suite, as well as the Rimsky-Korsakov and Presidential Apartments. Each room is equipped with air-conditioning, Internet access, a direct international and inter-city telephone line, interactive and satellite TV, a mini-bar and a safe.

All rooms are decorated in tranquil pastel shades, with comfortable furniture upholstered in elegant fabrics and luxurious curtains. Bathrooms are equipped with large mirrors and wall mosaics. All rooms have good views of the historic city center, cozy courtyard or Rimsky-Korsakov Avenue.
St Petersburg, Three Star Hotels

Kravt Hotel

The 3 star Kravt Hotel, opened in August 2015, offers 55 comfortable and cozy rooms of different categories (Standard, Superior, Junior suite, Suite). It is located in the historical and business center of Saint-Petersburg and within walking distance of its main attractions. The city's main street, Nevsky Prospekt, is only a 7 minute walk.

The Hotel features a wide range of facilities to make your stay a pleasant experience including free Wi-Fi, buffet breakfast, 24-hour front desk, luggage storage and a tour bureau.

Friendly staff, great facilities and close proximity to all that Saint Petersburg has to offer are three great reasons you should stay at Kravt Hotel.

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3mostA Hotel

A brand new boutique hotel, we are proud indeed of our 3 most "A"s:

- superb location, just a few minutes' walk from the world-famous Hermitage
- perfect hotel infrastructure
- flawless service.

Combining superb location in the heart of the city with a unique and stylish atmosphere, the hotel is a great choice for tourists and business travelers who prefer the boutique style.

The 3mostA provides everything you need for a comfortable stay. Our rooms are spacious and comfortable and each is equipped with:

- individual climate control system
- free wireless internet
- telephone
- 32" LCD TV
- minibar
- hairdryer.

Start the day a buffet breakfast at our Four Seasons Terrace Restaurant, which has a great panoramic view over the famous Moika Canal.

Prestige Hotel Center

The Prestige Hotel Center is centrally located in the heart of St Petersburg, just a 5-minute walk from Palace Square and the Hermitage. Free Wi-Fi and free private parking are provided. All rooms are equipped with a flat-screen TV and a safety deposit box. Some boast a spa bath. Room service is available. Guests at the Prestige Hotel can enjoy a breakfast buffet every morning. Our cafe serves traditional Russian cuisine for lunch and dinner. The Prestige Hotel Center is only a 3-minute walk from Nevsky Prospekt with its many restaurants, shops, and vibrant nightlife. Moskovskiy Train Station is 15 minutes' walk and St Petersburg’s Pulkovo International Airport is just 15 km away.

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Comfort Hotel

In this historical part of the city, numerous palaces and museums, canals and bridges, shops and restaurants are all along the streets. That’s why Comfort Hotel is a perfect place for those who needs to book hotel in Petersburg, the most beautiful city in Russia. The hotel was opened in 2003 during the celebration of St Petersburg 300th anniversary. It occupies an ancient building which has been painstakingly modernized and restored.

The Comfort Hotel in Saint Petersburg offers 18 guest rooms, from Classic to 2-room Suite with Jacuzzi and fireplace. Our interior combines classic elegance, modern facilities and high-quality service. We are also pleased to be the only hotel in Petersburg to exhibit the work of cult St Petersburg painter 'Valerius'.

Herzen House Hotel

The Herzen House Hotel is ideally located in the very heart of Saint-Petersburg, a 5-minute walk from some of the city’s major attractions, such as the Palace Square, St Isaac’s and the Hermitage. Recently developed in the historical building dating back to 1830s, Herzen House provides cosy interiors, a convenient position and friendly English-speaking staff, who are always delighted to welcome tourists and business travelers to the city of St Petersburg.

Our 29 rooms that have all been designed to good European standard, with:

- calm pastel color decoration
- comfortable furniture
- air-conditioning
- telephone, shower, hairdryer
- free Internet access (Lan/Wi-Fi)
- international satellite TV channels available in the major European languages (CNN, BBC, TV5 Monde Europe, ZDF, Rai Europe)
- double-glazing
- 220V mains voltage.
- iron/ironing board (on request)
- dressing-gowns (on request)
The Fortecia Piter Hotel

The Fortecia Piter Hotel is ideally located for both business and leisure guests to Saint Petersburg. The Fortecia Piter Hotel boasts a convenient location with modern amenities in every guest room and superb service. Room facilities include:

- non-smoking rooms
- business center
- air conditioning
- bathrobes
- on-demand movies
- writing desk
- hair dryer
- in-room safe
- 24hr room service
- laundry service/dry cleaning
- safety deposit boxes
- hotel/airport transfer

With elegant facilities and good hospitality, guests at this hotel can count on an enjoyable stay.

The Dynasty Hotel

The Dynasty Hotel is a standard small hotel situated on Ulitsa Rubinshteina in the heart of the historic center, a few minutes' walk from the Fontanka River and ten minutes from Nevsky Prospekt, St Petersburg’s main shopping street. The hotel occupies a four-story mansion that dates back to the mid-19th century. We do not provide a great range of amenities, but do have a small cafe for buffet breakfast and free WiFi access throughout.

The Dynasty Hotel is about five minutes' walk from Dostoevskaya and Vladimirskaya Metro Stations, making almost the whole of St Petersburg quickly and easily accessible.
Moscow, 5 Star Hotels

The Ritz-Carlton

Located just off the Red Square and next to the Kremlin, the Ritz-Carlton Moscow offers luxurious amenities including world-class dining options and 334 of the largest guest rooms and suites in Moscow. The O2 Lounge, a stylish rooftop terrace, features panoramic views over Red Square and the Kremlin. Its main restaurant, Café Russe, serves Russian cuisine classics made to original recipes as well as international culinary favourites. The Ritz-Carlton also lies within Moscow’s business centre and is a 3-minute walk from the GUM Department Store. Check-in at 15:00, check out by 12:00.

Hotel Baltschug Kempinski

The Baltschug Kempinski Moscow is conveniently located in the city center - just over the Moskva River from the Kremlin and Red Square. The hotel offers 227 large guestrooms and suites together with several restaurants: the Baltschug Grill Restaurant, with an amazing view onto St Basils Cathedral; the cozy Lobby Bar and the newly opened Cafe Kranzler.

For meetings and events, there are 12 areas available within the hotel: the Atrium (300 pax theatre style); Vladimir (300 pax theatre style / 250 pax round table dinner); the fabulous Library on the top floor with windows and balcony overlooking the Kremlin can accommodate 60 persons for the theatre style meeting. It is a perfect location for a company or event welcome reception and offers group check-in services. Check-in at 15:00, check-out by 12:00.

Moscow Ararat Park Hyatt

Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow is located in the very heart of the capital of Russia and is one of the best situated 5 star hotels in Moscow. Just a few minutes’ walk from the iconic landmarks such as the Kremlin, Red Square and St Basil’s Cathedral this luxury hotel is within the immediate vicinity of the famous Bolshoy Theatre. The central business district and the luxury shopping malls TsUM and GUM for those seeking to enjoy the wonderful shopping in Moscow are also nearby.
Ararat Park Hyatt offers accommodation in the 206 tastefully furnished rooms, including 32 expensive suites. Besides the hotel the offers Moscow’s fine dining restaurants and bars. Among them are the legendary Café Ararat, known for Armenian specialties, the Conservatory Lounge and Bar, recognized as one of the best bars in the world by Architectural Digest for its panoramic views over the city and outstanding contemporary design, the Neglinka Lounge, the Park restaurant and Japanese restaurant Enoki. The hotel also houses the Quantum Spa and Health Club that offers a great variety of massages, body and skin treatments and an indoor swimming pool.

**Moscow Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel**

Today, Marriott Hotels celebrate the travelers of the world and now there are 9 Marriotts in Moscow. This Moscow Luxury hotel is situated in the heart of the city – close to Bolshoi Theatre, Red square and the Kremlin. It faces a shopping mall TSUM and the Stoleshniki Street - a pedestrian district with a variety of boutiques & restaurants. The hotel offers great variety of facilities – high speed internet, fitness center, business center, restaurant on-site, pool, meeting event space, full service spa and much more.

**The National Hotel**

The National Hotel is located at the very heart of Moscow, near to Red Square, the Kremlin and Moscow’s historical, cultural and business centre. The hotel has 184 guest rooms over 6 floors, 37 self-contained apartments and a Club floor.

There are 3 restaurants in the hotel, serving both European and Russian cuisine. There is a cozy bar, and the breakfast area on the top floor boasts a great view over Red Square.

- 24-hours room service
- facilities for disabled persons
- concierge services
- laundry and dry-cleaning service
- spa, sea-water swimming pool and Jacuzzi
- fitness center
- beauty salon.

Check-in at 15:00, check-out 12:00.
Radisson Royal Hotel

Radisson Royal Hotel is a luxury 5 star hotel located on the Moskva river, just in 10 minutes’ drive from Moscow city centre.

The Hotel has 497 fashionable rooms including suites, a Club floor and 38 fully serviced apartments. The Veranda restaurant, which also serves breakfast, offers delicious, contemporary Mediterranean and European cuisine. Check-in at 15:00, check-out by 12:00.

Moscow Marriott Grand Hotel

This luxury 5-star Marriott hotel has perfect location - on the main street of Moscow, Tverskaya Boulevard, which leads directly to Red Square and the Kremlin, the heart of the city’s business, cultural and shopping centre. Moscow Marriott Grand hotel offers oversized rooms and suites with fantastic city views as well as with famous comfortable Marriott bedding with down comforters, fluffy pillows and cotton-rich linen. Each room is approximately 32 square meters (350 sq ft). Executive Level features include complimentary newspaper, continental buffet breakfast, hors d’oeuvres and more.

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Moscow, 4 Star Hotels

Marriott Tverskaya

Centrally located in Tverskaya Boulevard, within 5-7 minutes’ drive of Red Square and the city centre, the Marriott combines Russian historical tradition with modern amenities and sophisticated luxury.

The hotel offers 162 spacious rooms with luxurious bedding over 8 floors. Enjoy a feast with friends and colleagues at Gratzi Restaurant or a snack and cocktails at the Lobby Bar. Check-in at 16:00 Check-out by 12:00.

The Courtyard by Marriott, Moscow City Center

Courtyard, by Marriott Moscow City Centre, boasts excellent service and a great location, situated less than 10 minutes’ walk from Red Square and the Kremlin. It has 208 rooms and 10 suites over 7 floors.

The lovely Marriott Courtyard Hotel features a beautiful 462 m² atrium lobby, which is filled with natural light. There are 2 restaurants with serving international cuisine. Enjoy a large breakfast buffet at the Terraneo restaurant or eat in your room. Check-in at 15:00, check-out by 12:00.

Courtyard Marriott Moscow Paveletskaya

Courtyard Moscow Paveletskaya Hotel is located in the business area of Russian capital and in just a short trip to the Moscow city centre and is within walking distance of the Paveletskaya railway station, from where you can take the train to the Domodedovo International airport. The hotel offers great variety of facilities – high speed internet, fitness center, business center, restaurant on-site, meeting event space. Moscow Paveletskaya hotel rooms and suites are all with natural lighting and stunning views. Hotel superior rooms combine comfort and functionality, including free high-speed Internet access, large desk with conveniently placed lighting and outlets and an ergonomic chair for comfort. All rooms have cotton rich sheets & fluffy pillows.

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Park Inn Sadu

Only a short walk from Red Square and the Kremlin, this hotel is perfectly suited to both business and leisure travellers. The hotel is situated in the heart of historic Moscow near attractions such as Christ the Saviour Cathedral and the fabulous Tretyakov Gallery.

The hotel boasts 118 comfortable rooms and is just minutes away from the Polyanka metro station. Its restaurant, Café Sadu, offers fine European cuisine together with Russian specialties.

Holiday Inn Suschevskiy

This 4 star hotel, part of the international Holiday Inn chain, is situated 4 km from Red Square and the Kremlin. Built recently in 2006, the hotel has 312 guest rooms over 22 floors. For dining, the hotel offers the Café Fleur restaurant and a Lounge Bar, both located on the ground floor lobby level. Check-in at 15:00, check-out by 12:00.