

Imperial Capitals

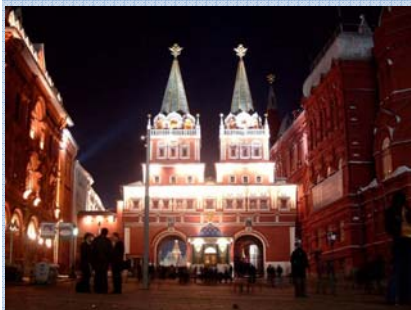


moscow and st. petersburg

The best places to start with, they embody the diversity and depth of history and culture more than any other: Moscow and St Petersburg. Your journey begins in the capital city of Moscow, where you can see the treasures of the Moscow Kremlin as well the astonishing architecture of St. Basil's Cathedral on Red Square. Continue to St. Petersburg, where the opulence and power of the Russian Royalty who ruled here for centuries is revealed.

Day 1, Friday

Upon arrival you will be met by your private guide and driver and taken to your deluxe 5-star hotel Baltshug Kempinski, located downtown across the Moscow River from Red Square and the Kremlin. After check in, maybe a have a light snack at the hotel and rest.



Evening: Enjoy a spectacular "Moscow Nights" city tour. Drive along Moscow's most fashionable and historic street –Tverskaya and take in the dazzling new Moscow. Drive a little out of the center to witness the out-of-this world Moscow University complex on Sparrow Hills where you can get a superb view over the whole of Moscow. The University is one of the so-called "seven sisters" – the seven Stalin skyscrapers built in the inimitable 'wedding cake' architectural style. Then onto the Moscow White House where the Russian Duma or Parliament sits and which witnessed such tumultuous events in October 1993. End the tour

with a stop on the Kremlin embankment for a spectacular view of the Kremlin churches and Red Square. By night, clever lighting during either winter or summer makes Moscow a sight you will long remember.

Day 2, Saturday

Meet the guide and be prepared to walk the streets like local! Comfortable shoes required.

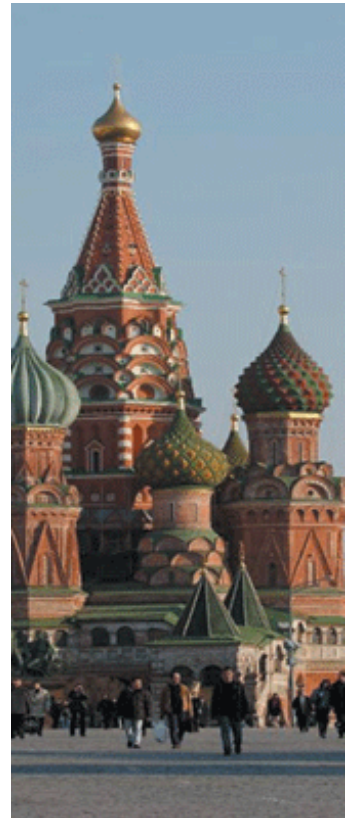
Visit Red Square, the spiritual heart of Russia and stand for a moment, while you take it all in and try to imagine the centuries of history that have passed through here- from medieval marketplace to Tsar's execution spot, to displays by thousands of Red Army soldiers to Paul McCartney's recent concert. Just being there is an experience of a lifetime which is not to be missed.

Then visit Lenin's Tomb – another once-in-a-lifetime experience. Contemplate St. Basil's Cathedral which, you will agree, is an awe-inspiring piece of architectural confectionery. Stroll around the famous State Department Store GUM (Generalnye Universalnye Magazin), so elegant and well-appointed, filled with designer shops and cozy eateries.

Walk to Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, which houses the best world collection of Impressionists. Next to the museum is the enormous Christ the Redeemer Cathedral, recently reconstructed by Mayor Lujhkov at the budget of 350mln dollars.

You might want to end the day by strolling along Moscow's famous pedestrianised Arbat street in the late afternoon. This street is full of musicians, artists, cozy coffee shops and shops and stalls selling many different kinds of souvenirs such as the uniquely Russian blue and white Gzhell porcelain, the Matryoshka nesting doll, or perhaps you would like to buy yourself a furry Russian hat.

Evening: Bolshoi or other classical performance (schedule permitting). Moscow is on a par, and sometimes better than London or New York when it comes to putting on a spectacular performance with highly talented musicians and dancers.



Day 3, Sunday

This morning your guide will take you on a short ride on the famous Moscow metro to visit the Tretyakov Gallery, Russia's largest treasure trove of exclusively Russian art of the last millennium.

In the afternoon drive to Kolomenskoe Estate, a nice park, where local families often have picnics. Maybe drop into one of local churches to listen to the rare heard in the West low voice chanting. Pay a respect to few sites, related to the time of Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great, who was born here.

Stop by a Novospassky monastery, whose history has few dramatic pages related to times of Elizabeth and Catherine the Great.

Evening: Experience the Russian circus tradition which is more developed here than in any other country.

Day 4, Monday

Check out of your hotel. Meet your guide and driver for the Space day experience.

Drive to the Star City to the Cosmonaut Training Center. Hear, learn and think of the future of the Humanity – the Space. How humans tolerate the antigravity? Why do we need to fly to Mars? When we will settle on the Moon? After lunch (optional)

Proceed to the museum of Space, the main attraction of which is the fact that everything cosmonauts used and didn't need – became a museum item.

Back to Moscow for Farewell Dinner in one of the local restaurants.

Board the midnight train to St Petersburg.

Day 5, Tuesday

Upon arrival around 9am to St Petersburg, you will be met by private guide and driver and taken for the breakfast (optional). You will be hungry after the train journey.

Comprehensive city tour of this beautiful city, often called the Northern Venice. Visit Peter & Paul fortress, the cradle of the city, where Russia rulers, starting from Peter the Great, found the rest at Peter & Paul Cathedral.

Lunch (optional)

Late afternoon check in to your 5 star newly restored luxury hotel Corinthia Nevskji Palace and rest.

Day 6, Wednesday

Meet the guide and driver. Today visit the extravagant Yusupov Palace, where the notorious monk, Rasputin, finally met his untimely end.



Next to the unique, the eldest ship in Russia – Cruiser Aurora. Built in 1903, it is one of the most famous boats. The vessel took part in four wars, including Tsushima battle of 1905. The sailor's bio are amazing. Due to our special arrangements, you might want to see the fortepiano of Nicolas II in the Captain's Cabin, the table where the 1st spaceman, Jury Gagarin, won a blitz-match in 10min, the real old machinery and what not can offer 252 rooms aboard. About 100 young sailors live and serve on the ship. This will be no boring visit guaranteed.

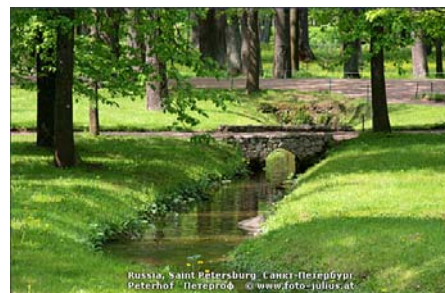
Evening: Take in a show at the famous Mariinski Theatre, second only to the Bolshoi as a hothouse for Russian talent (schedule permitting).

Day 7, Thursday

Hermitage Museum, which boasts one of the world's finest art collections.

The walk through more than 200 rooms full of priceless masterpieces from different epochs and countries will take you into another world.

Afternoon visit to Petergoff. This Russian Versailles surprises many. See the park with the fountains, visit the charming Bath House and Monplaisir, the favorite abode of Peter the Great, with his sea-loving taste.



Evening: On your final evening enjoy a traditional Russia Folklore show in a private palace.

Day 8, Friday

Check out of the hotel. Transfer with the guide to the airport for your flight home.

 **o Svidania, Russia!**

Travel Details

The price starts from 1,650 Euro per person, room sharing. All rates are subject to availability. Minimum 10 persons required to guarantee the price.

3 Nights in Moscow	5star, Hotel Baltchug Kempinski
Overnight train Moscow to St. Petersburg	1st class, compartment for two
3 Nights in St. Petersburg	5star, Corinthia Nevskij Palace Hotel

What is included: Standard Double Room as noted per itinerary, buffet breakfast daily with selected meals. Internal train, all ground transfers, services of Charisma Travel guides.

What is not included: International airfare, travel insurance, visa fees, excess baggage fees, baggage assistance at all airports and hotels, gratuities for guides, drivers, hotel services, personal expenses, including alcoholic beverages. Single supplement available on request. Rates are valid 2009.