



Northern Lights in Russia



First day



Ride to Moscow. Moscow is the capital of Russia, it's financial, educational and travel center. It stands on the banks of the Moskva river. It's the second most populous city in Europe and the 11th largest city in the world. In 2016, the estimated population was 12.19 million.



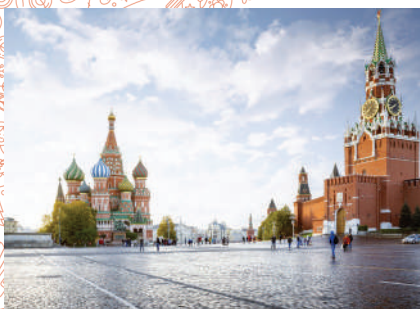
Transfer to Holiday Inn hotel/Novotel/ Marriott, Moscow (or the same level hotel)

Second day

Moscow – Red Square with St. Basil's Cathedral (outside), Saviour Clock Tower, Lenin Mausoleum (outside), GUM shopping Mall – ceremony of guard's changing before the tomb of the unknown soldier – Kremlin territory with Assumption Cathedral, the Archangel Michael Cathedral, Big Bell of Tsar – metro tour – the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour – Arbat street – circus (B/Gala Lunch/D)

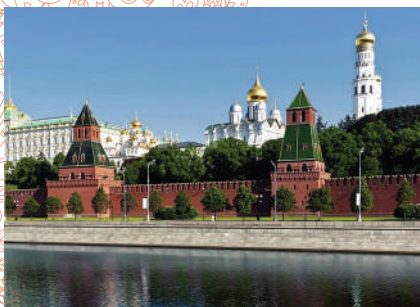


Buffet breakfast at the hotel



We will start the day at the very center of Russia: Red Square with Kremlin (the residence of the President of Russia Mr Putin). Red Square means beautiful in Russian. The square was meant to serve as Moscow's main marketplace. But gradually it was built up since that point and has been used for official ceremonies by all Russian government. The symbol of Moscow's beauty standing nearby is St. Basils' Cathedral, named after St. Basil the Blessed. Basil impressed Russian tsar in 1547 when he foretold a fire that swept through Moscow that year.

Upon his death, Basil was buried in the Trinity Cathedral that stood on this site at the time. The Cathedral of the Intercession (official name) was constructed from 1555 to 1560. Legend has it that after it was completed, tsar Ivan had the architect blinded in order to prevent him from building a more magnificent building for anyone else. Saviour Clock Tower. The Gothic-turreted Saviour Clock Tower considered by many to be the most beautiful tower of the Kremlin. The tower has 5-pointed star made of 20 tons of ruby, the Communist Party's symbol. Lenin Mausoleum. It was specially arranged for the burial of the Father of the Russian Revolution, Vladimir Lenin. His preserved body has been on public display there since shortly after his death in 1924, with rare exceptions in wartime. You will also have a short break for shopping in GUM.



The ceremony of guard's changing before the tomb of the unknown soldier is a must visit place for every official delegation. It's a war memorial, dedicated to the Soviet soldiers killed during World War II, to those who withstood peoples' freedom all over the world. Another point of interest is Red-brick Kremlin (old meaning of 'Kremlin' is 'cut out of solid timber'). Built in 15th century, Moscow Kremlin is Europe's biggest acting medieval fortress. Its architectural complex includes several picturesque Orthodox cathedrals and palaces (Assumption Cathedral, the Archangel Michael Cathedral), as well as Tsar Cannon and Tsar Bell. The Kremlin is not only Russian President's working residence it's also the symbol of Russian political power.

Gala lunch

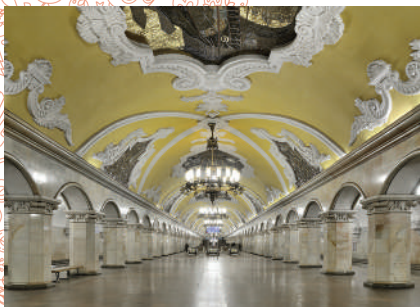
During this lunch you will have the opportunity not only try authentic Russian food at one of the restaurants of premium quality, but also have some entertainment.



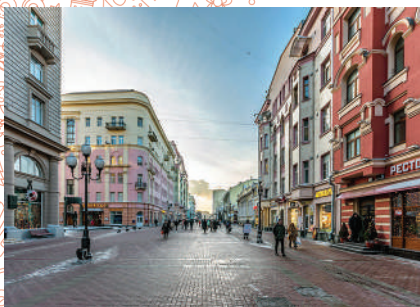
Either Moscow birds' eye view at the restaurant Russki on the 85th floor.



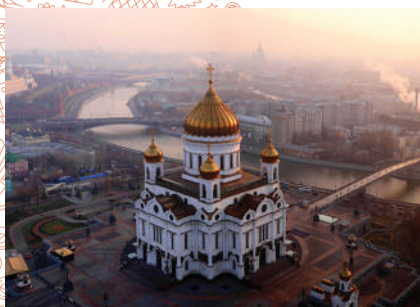
Or see restaurant's own little village yard behind the glass with live cows and even peacocks at the restaurant Shinok.



Have a tour in Moscow metro, like ordinary Muscovites in their every day life. It's one of the most beautiful metro systems in the world, Moscow underground has more than 200 stations, each of which is different from one another, 44 stations are included in World Cultural Heritage list. Ever since its construction in 1930s Moscow metro stations has been nicknamed "underground palaces for people", idea that luxury belonged to simple people, not to the rich or the noble-blooded (as it did before the Great Revolution), suited the young socialist country very much. Moscow metro is not only a cultural object, it is also one of the busiest underground transport systems in the world (the 5th one). During the rush hour a train arrives at the station as often as every 90 seconds, making metro the most popular transportation method in the busy metropolitan city.



Walk down Arbat street, this kitschy pedestrian street and don't forget to look at the small by-streets around the Arbat. They allow you to feel the "old Moscow spirit": it used to be filled with artists, musicians, performers. Adjacent buildings used to belong to the noble part of Pre-Revolution Russian society. Now Arbat is full of souvenir vendors and tourist cafes. Needless to say, the street got its name in medieval times from the Turkic word meaning 'trader's carriage'.



The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour is the world's highest Orthodox church and the main acting church in Russia. This cathedral has a tragic background: built on the people's donations to commemorate Russian heroes who perished in the Patriotic War of 1812, it was destroyed during the Stalin era and reconstructed again in the 1990s in the wake of Russian "Orthodox Renaissance". Patriarch bridge, which is just outside the cathedral, boasts the best views on Kremlin and historical center of Moscow.



Dinner at the restaurant (Chinese restaurant)



Visit to circus show. Every performance with duration for 2 hours includes breath-taking tricks and stunts, well-trained animals and bright decorations. Today the circus is using the most up-to-date acoustic, sound, light and stage equipment, so the evening will leave a very deep impression to you. **if there are no circus performance according to the timetable the company reserves the right to refund this service to you for 10USD**



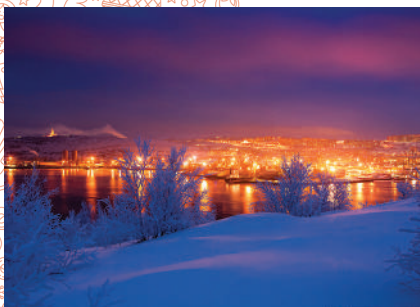
Transfer to Holiday Inn hotel/Novotel/Marriott, Moscow (or the same level hotel)

Third day

Moscow – Murmansk International Airport, Russia – Murmansk City sign – Alesha monument – Five Corners Square – the Northernmost McDonalds – First Nuclear-powered Icebreaker Lenin – Folklore show with traditional Russian games(B/L/BBQ Dinner with Kamchatka crab)



Breakfast in lunch boxes



Transfer to Sheremetyevo Airport

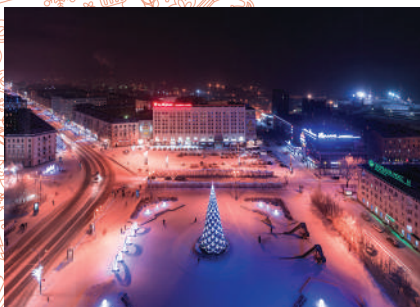
07.20 AM Flight to Murmansk airport by Aeroflot Company flight SU1320 (some days this flights operates 09:40-12:10)

****Duration about 2 hours and 30 minutes, food and drinks will be provided****

09.50 AM Arrival in Murmansk



Ride to Murmansk city. Murmansk is the largest city in the world behind the Arctic circle. Here is the base of world's only nuclear icebreaker fleet and the only non-freezing sea port in Russia. The city stretches for 21 km along the Kola Bay at the entrance to the Barents Sea. In 2016 Murmansk celebrated its 100th anniversary. It was the last city founded in Russian Empire and first was called Romanov-on-Murman in honor of the royal dynasty of the Romanovs. It was founded to give Russia access to the Arctic ocean the Arctic. The bus will make a circle round the Murmansk city sign for you to make a photo. 1985 - for outstanding achievements in the years of the great Patriotic War, Murmansk was awarded by the title "Hero City". The traditional place of Victory Day in Murmansk is the memorial to the Defenders of the Soviet Polar region with a stone made sculpture in its center. This 35-meter high figure of a soldier with a gun on his shoulder and in a cloak-tent – is one of the largest monuments in Russia, it has received a gentle nickname Alyosha. The memorial is located on the Green Cape, 173 m above sea level, so Alyosha is well visible from almost anywhere in Murmansk.



Five Corners square is the main square of Murmansk, Russia. From 1977 until December 1990 it was formally named "Soviet Constitution Square", but this name never entered wide popular use. You will have the possibility to enter and make photo in the Northernmost McDonalds in the world.



Lunch at the restaurant (local restaurant)



Nuclear-powered icebreaker "Lenin" is the world's first nuclear-powered on-water vessel with nuclear installation. The icebreaker was constructed in the Soviet Union, primarily to serve the Northern Sea Route. Launched on December 5, 1957. Due to the large capacity of the nuclear installation and high autonomy, the icebreaker showed excellent performance during the first navigation. The use of the nuclear-powered icebreaker has significantly prolonged navigation. Only in first 6 years of operation the icebreaker made more than 82 thousand nautical miles and independently escorted more than 400 vessels. Icebreaker "Lenin" worked for 30 years and in 1989 she was decommissioned and moored in the city of Murmansk. The guests of the Lenin can visit the cabin-company, the crew's dining-room, which served both as a "floating cinema", the engine room, the medical station, the post of energy and survivability, the captain's bridge with the operating radio-room and, of course, have the opportunity to see the upper parts of the nuclear reactor design.

****on Monday-Tuesday Icebreaker is closed. During these days only outside photo stop will be arranged with refund to the guests 11 USD****



Everyone knows that the North fascinates its inhabitants and guests with nature and cordiality. What else is the exclusivity of the Kola Peninsula? The first and the major reason to visit is the Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis). It's a phenomenon to the stunning beauty of which is impossible to get used to. The name "Aurora Borealis" is actually derived from Greek words "Aurora" meaning "sunrise" and "Boreas" which means "wind". It was really rare for ancient Greeks to see the Northern Lights, but this is not something they were completely unheard of. The Greeks believed that the god Aurora was racing across the early morning sky in her multi-colored chariot, when the Northern Lights were on the sky. Aurora was the sister of Helios, who was known as the god of Sun. It is believed that a child conceived underneath the Northern Lights will be blessed with good looks, intellect and good fortune. People from different corners of the world come to the North to have a chance to see such a phenomenon and be blessed. Although this phenomenon can be viewed not every evening, still let nature be favorable to you!



BBQ dinner



In order to improve your chance to see the Northern Light we will take you in the evening out of the illuminated city to the country-side and bring you to warm sheltered picnic facility for watching Northern lights with a fireplace and tables with benches inside. BBQ dinner with crab will be arranged there. Additionally 7 separate wooden huts, 2 chooms, toilets are available. To make your waiting more pleasant some outdoor activities will be arranged: like grilling your food, making a snowman. Folklore group will teach you to play Saami games. For those who like singing – karaoke system is available.



Transfer to Azimut hotel (or the same level hotel)

Fourth day

Arctic Husky Park with husky sledding – Saami village with reindeer sledding - Guest house – riding down snow slope – Northern Lights (B/Saami L/D)



Buffet breakfast at the hotel



The second reason to visit the North is to get acquainted with life and traditions of the north people. We will bring you to the Arctic Husky Park and Saami village. Indigenous peoples – Saami, or Lapps – live in the Murmansk region according to their historical traditions. Their culture is characterized by a huge number of legends and ancient rites. Upon arrival you will be welcomed in the Choom (traditional circular doomed dwelling of nomadic Saami people). After short briefing you will be provided with traditional northern overall dress for you not to get cold during snowmobile safari to Saami's reindeer husbandry. Saami's lifestyle centers around reindeers: it's their transport, food, clothes, houses...Have a chance to feed reindeers and have a ride in reindeer sledges like Saami.

in case if there is not enough snow, snowmobile safari and riding in reindeers sledges will be changed to Folklore Saami performance

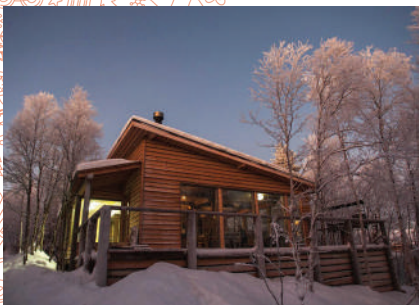


Arctic Husky Park will offer you a unique experience: husky sledding. Just imagine: the dogs' barking, the snow spraying, the wind in your face and the unique synergy of human and animal. The husky-sled ride is an unparalleled pleasure, which is only rarely to be found somewhere.



Saami lunch

You will get familiar not only with Saami lifestyle but you will taste authentic Saami lunch with venison and cranberry pie.



Transfer to Guest House (Olenya guest house/Eco-home Guest house)

The third reason to visit the North is to see the pristine beauty. There are fewer and fewer places in the world, untouched by civilization. The Murmansk region is the area, where most miracles are created by nature, not by man. In order to realize it we will accommodate you in an eco-touristic paradise not far from Murmansk city. Beloved by Russian and European stars and political leaders, situated in the forest preservation area this resort specializes eco-tourism. The wooden sturdy houses can place up to 40 people. Panoramic windows offer view over a lovely lake and the hilly skyline. The designers made a point not to destroy any trees while building the venue so the trees surround the houses so closely so you can feel you are in the northern wood. Let cosy rooms with warm floor and exquisite Scandinavian design become a real home for you during your stay in the north polar circle. No chemicals are used in the buildings design so you can smell the amber-like thus of the wooden logs. The common lounge area is open 24 hours for you to get together with friends and play games and chat.



In winter outdoor activities will be arranged for you: playing snowballs, riding down the snow slope. Ride on a rubber wheel down a snowy slope is loved both by the children and the adults. If you haven't tried it yet, our snow-tubing track will convince you that it's great fun full of adventure and laughter, where you forget all about your problems and time. We build our snow-tubing track as soon as the first freezing and snowing starts. The slope, where it's placed, is a slight one, but it does have sufficient inclination for you to enjoy some crazy rides.



Local dinner at the restaurant

After dinner you have some spare time for rest and for buying souvenirs in the local shop. Panoramic windows are specially designed for you to watch the Northern lights when the time comes.



Overnight at the Guest house Olenya/Eco home (or the same level)

Fifth day

Snowmobiling in a sledge – Ice-fishing – master class in making ice-holes – sauna and rejuvenating spa in a wooden tub – folklore show – lottery – option activity – Northern Lights (B/ L/D)



Buffet breakfast at the hotel



After a short briefing you will be equipped with warm clothes and boots to be ready for active recreation. It's the fourth reason to visit the North. Active recreation on the Kola Peninsula is not only an extreme in the Far North, but also a proof of fearlessness, a test for a true traveler. Snowmobiling in a sledge through the scenic forest will give you a chance to do amazing winter photos. Enjoy clean and fresh snow-white landscape! **in case if there are not enough snow snowmobiling will be replaced with adventure game-quest for the knowledge of Northern nature**



Being on the lake fishing spot you will be taught how to make an ice-hole, how to deal with a fishing-rod. The Murmansk region is home to nearly more than 100,000 lakes, so it's no surprise that people here have a more than healthy interest in fishing because they have lots of exciting places and ways to do it. Winter in Murmansk is long, dark, and full of delights – one of the biggest ones being ice fishing. That's the fifth reason to visit the North. Generally speaking, the same kind of fish can be caught in winter as can be caught in the warmer months. Perch, pike, rainbow trout, arctic char, and burbot are among the most popular catches, along with grayling and whitefish.

****in case if the ice is not thick enough the standard fishing from the bank will be arranged****



Lunch at the restaurant (local restaurant)

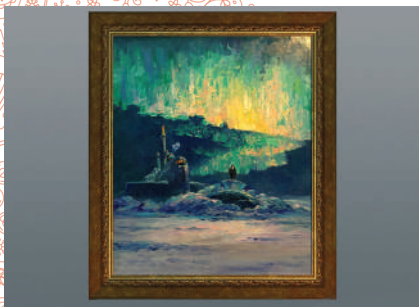
Time for optional activities upon your wish (not included into the package):

1. OPTION LUCKY CHARM WORKSHOP (5-14 ppl)

At this workshop from a Saami artist everybody gets a chance to make a wooden lucky mascot with their own hands. You will get a piece of freshly cut lime tree, slate pencils and varnish to cover your drawing. After learning traditional Saami symbols and patterns, you can create your own combination which will express your dreams and wishes. Relaxing and spiritual experience even for those who never did art before. Fortune-telling based on your picture and tips from the teacher are possible. You will bring home your lucky charm that can be used as a fridge magnet that will guide you through life and serve as an authentic souvenir from the North of Russia at the same time. Approximate duration: 40 minutes. Workshop should be ordered 1 day in advance.

Number of participants: 5-14 - 20 USD





2. OPTION AURORA PAINTING CLASS

Become a real artist by creating your very own Northern Light! During workshop from a local painter, you will learn how to paint snowy Northern landscapes and beautiful Aurora shining high above. Under the guidance of the artist and our interpreter, you will be able to paint your ideal Aurora. The technique is perfectly easy to grasp even if you don't have any artistic experience. All materials are provided. The only thing you need is inspiration! Approximate duration: 40 minutes. Workshop should be ordered 1 day in advance.

Number of participants: 10-35 – 20 USD



3. OPTION KING CRAB SHOW

Unique opportunity to taste a local seafood specialty - delicious king crab, fresh from the waters of Barentsev sea. You choose your portion of the crab from a plate, the chef will cook it for you. Only meaty parts of the crab - legs and claws - are offered. Weight of one portion may vary from 500 g to 1.7 kg. Crab scissors and other tools are provided. The choosing process and dish layout on a plate allows you to take memorable photos of this exclusive treat. Crabs must be ordered in advance: a day before - for lunch, at breakfast - for dinner.

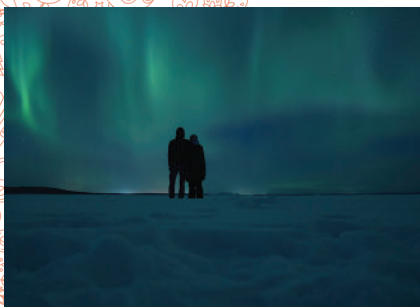
115 USD – per kilo.



4. OPTION SNOWMOBILE SAFARI

A licensed driver will take you through the winter fairy-tale. You will feel quite safe behind his back no matter how fast he drives through the snowy desert. The standard track will take you 40 minutes for standard tour and 60 minutes for big tour. The instructor will stop in the most secret places to give you enough time to take photos of the 'gems of the North'.

Standard tour – 120 USD/ Big tour – 140 USD



5. OPTION AURORA CHASE on snowmobiles

On evenings when Aurora is most likely to be clearly seen, you can go 'Aurora hunting'. Chasing the Northern Lights, the most fascinating natural phenomenon, you will be taken by a local in a sledge to look for clear skies away from the city illumination. The view of the Northern Lights is more distinct than from the camp, and guests will have a chance of taking wonderful photos of Aurora. Two tents are put up for you on the lake: one toilet tent and one tent, where you can get warm and drink some hot tea.

Duration: approximately 2 hours.

Number of people: starting from 4 – 125 USD



6. SKIING TRIP

Experience cross-country skiing - one of the favourites among the locals. Your ski journey through the snowy forest will end up with a joyful BBQ by the fire. The guide will take you on a short picturesque track (around 300m), you will make fire and have fun time roasting meat and sausages, drinking tea and photographing winter scenery. All skiing equipment and food for BBQ is provided, the ski track is suitable any sport level from ski beginners to ski professionals. No health restrictions, except for severe heart, muscle or bone conditions.

Duration: 1,5 hours.

Number of people: 3-8 – 65 USD



After an active winter day outside you will have the chance to experience luxurious sauna and rejuvenating spa in a wooden tub where you can warm yourself up. Sauna is a great stress reliever and it improves cardiovascular performance. After hot sauna, we suggest you to shock your body with the opposite, rubbing with snow. And you might feel more alive than ever. It is told that rubbing with snow might even improve your cognitive abilities.



Local dinner at the restaurant



Folklore show with traditional Russian songs and dances will make you dinner more pleasant and enjoyable. At the end good-hearted staff will hold the lottery among the guests and will present small souvenirs for a long memory of being beyond the Arctic circle.

After dinner you have some spare time for rest and for buying souvenirs in the local shop. Panoramic windows are specially designed for you to watch the Northern lights when the time comes.



Overnight at the Guest house Olenya/Eco home
(or the same level)

Sixth day

Murmansk – Pulkovo Airport, St. Petersburg – Pushkin with Catherine Palace and Amber room
(B/-/D) -



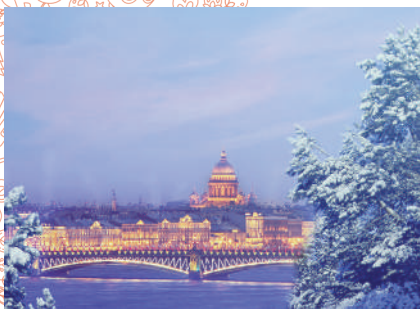
Buffet breakfast at the Guest house

Transfer to Murmansk Airport

11.20 AM Flight to Pulkovo airport by Aeroflot Company
flight SU6342

****Duration about 1 hour and 50 minutes, food and drinks will be provided****

13.10 PM Arrival in St. Petersburg



Like Peter the Great we came to the North-West territory of our country. Emperor Peter has done revolution in social and political systems and replaced them with modern, scientific, westernized ones. Peter's reforms made a lasting impact on Russia. Many institutions of Russian government trace their origins to his reign. He was the first ruler who understood that it was the time to change for Russia. It was necessary to do the next step. And next step was to get the outlet to the sea as previously Russia didn't have one. Peter the Great had launched the war against Sweden in order to get this outlet. Nowadays St. Petersburg is the second biggest city in Russia. It was Russia's capital city for two centuries. Built by the great reformer, Emperor Peter the Great, St. Petersburg is the most Westernized city of the country.



Emperor Peter the Great has started the tradition of building of summer residence and it was caught up by further Emperors. And at the present time we can admire the whole necklace of such residences around St. Petersburg. We offer to visit you one of such estates: Catherine Palace in Pushkin. Inside you will see reach decorations from the collection of Russian tsars, see the furniture they used and the rooms where they arranged balls, official dinners and other important state events. You will have the opportunity to admire the world-known Amber room with walls richly decorated with original Russian amber.



Local dinner at the restaurant



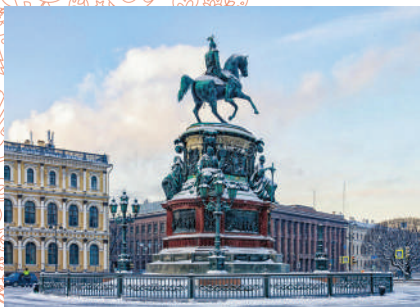
Overnight at the hotel Crowne Plaza/Courtyard by Marriott/Hilton/
Holiday Inn (or the same level)

Seventh day

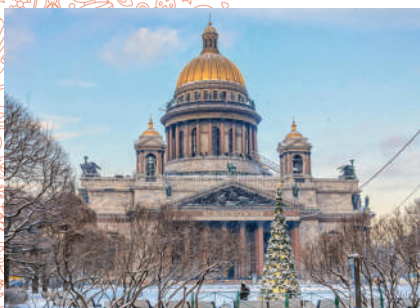
Nicolas I monument - St. Isaac's Cathedral – Bronze Horseman -
Winter Palace – the Hermitage museum
(B/L/D) -



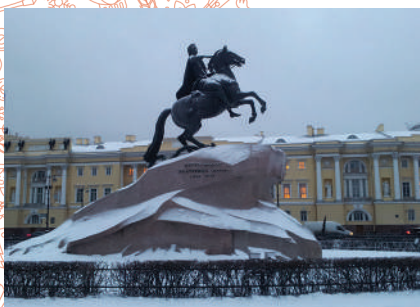
Buffet breakfast at the hotel



Monument of Emperor Nicholas I is located in the center of the city right in front of St Isaac Cathedral. When you see the monument, you may feel that the figure of the horse is in action, while the emperor who is riding the horse is calm, quiet and decisive. The monument hides a lot of secrets. Why does it look so similar with the statue of Peter the Great? How many support points does the monument have? Correct! Only two! It was the first equestrian statue in Europe with only two support points (the rear hooves of the horse), the only precedent being the 1852 equestrian statue of U.S President Andrew Jackson.



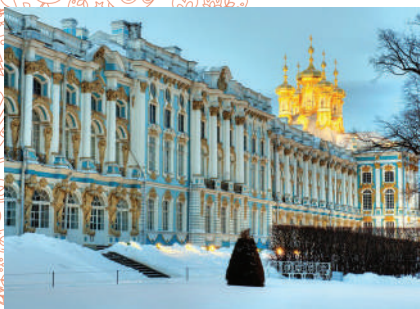
St Isaac's Cathedral is one of the symbols of Saint Petersburg, the 4th highest dome church in the world and second highest in Russia, after Moscow's Christ the Saviour Cathedral. Whole-stone granite columns decorate its four facades; luxurious interiors dazzle the visitors with their sheer scale. Due to the high variety of colored stones used in decoration, the cathedral bears the name "museum of stone", while giant mural paintings attract the eyes of visitors from around the world. It took 40 years for the architect to finish it up. Miraculously enough but St. Isaac's Cathedral has suffered only a little during Nazi bombing.



The Bronze Horseman monument. The name comes from an 1833 poem of the same name by Aleksander Pushkin, which is widely considered one of the most significant works in Russian literature. The statue is now one of the symbols of Saint Petersburg. The statue's pedestal is the enormous Thunder Stone, the largest stone ever moved by humans. The stone originally weighed about 1500 tonnes, but was carved down during transportation to its current site. The statue portrays Peter the Great sitting heroically on his horse, his outstretched arm pointing towards the River Neva. The sculptor wished to capture the exact moment of his horse rearing at the edge of a dramatic cliff. His horse can be seen trampling a serpent, variously interpreted to represent treachery, evil, or the enemies of Peter and his reforms.



Local lunch at the restaurant



Winter Palace is the place that King of Thailand, King Rama V visit during his journey to Russia, to create a friendship relationship between Thailand and Russia. Winter Palace used to be Russian emperors' residence, and now it has become one of the biggest museums in the world, the Hermitage. If one would look at each of its exhibits only for one minute, it would take about 7 years to finish the excursion. Total number of exhibits exceeds 3 million, including the works of Leonardo da Vinci, Rafael, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Rubens. This makes this museum rank one of the top 3 in the world, it has been nicknamed "the Russian Louvre".



Chinese dinner at the restaurant



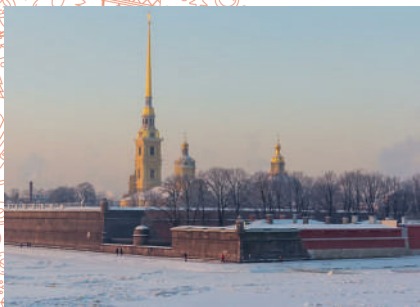
Overnight at the hotel Crowne Plaza/Courtyard by Marriott/Hilton/Holiday Inn (or the same level)

Eighth day

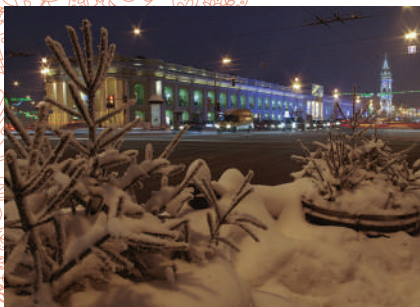
Peter and Paul Fortress – Nevsky prospect – Savior Cathedral on Spilled Blood (outside) –Moscow Vnukovo International Airport (B/L/-) -



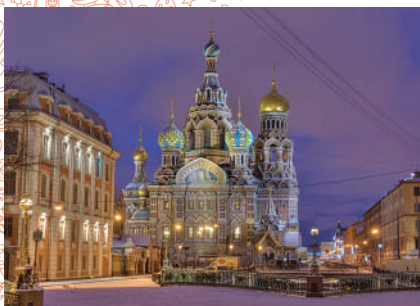
Buffet breakfast at the hotel



Peter and Paul Fortress. This is the birthplace of St. Petersburg. In 1703 Peter the Great ordered to build a fortress on a small island on Neva River. So began the history of Saint Petersburg. The Peter and Paul Fortress was designed to protect Russia's border from Sweden, it used the most advanced military technology of that time and is believed to be impossible to seize. But paradoxically enough this Fortress had lost its functions as another fortress in Gulf of Finland was built up. And Peter and Paul Fortress became a prison. The first prisoner was Peter the Great's son. You will also have a chance to get to the river embankment and see a wonderful view and St. Petersburg's most important landmarks at a time.



What Tverskaya street is for Moscow, Nevsky prospect is for Saint Petersburg - the central street, main transport corridor and popular attraction place. The building along the Nevsky Avenue are all historical relics. When walking along the street you can enjoy the beautiful architecture and go shopping or have a rest in a café. But it's most important that no matter how you take a photo on the Nevsky, it will look as a postcard.



In 1881 Russian emperor Alexander II was assassinated, just a few hours before signing the first Russian constitution. Just on that spot where royal blood was spilled, his son built Savior Cathedral on Spilled Blood. 'New Russian' style architecture, its looks were inspired by the best examples of ancient Slavic architecture. Both interior and exterior are richly decorated with mosaics, which gives this masterpiece a name 'museum of mosaics'.



Local lunch at the restaurant

Transfer to Pulkovo Airport, St. Petersburg

19.50 PM Arrival in Bangkok, Thailand

END OF SERVICES

Contacts



✉ booking@hotelmurmansk.com

f [@ecohome.murmansk](https://www.facebook.com/ecohome.murmansk)

📷 [@ecohome_murmansk](https://www.instagram.com/ecohome_murmansk)

hotelmurmansk.com