



Russia Never Sleeps



First day

Moscow International Airport, Moscow – Red Square with St. Basil's Cathedral (outside), Saviour Clock Tower, GUM shopping Mall, Manezhnaya Square, Alexander Garden, Bolshoy Theatre (outside), Kremlin (outside) (-/-/D)



Arrival at International Airport, Moscow, Russia
Immigration and Customs formalities



Day time



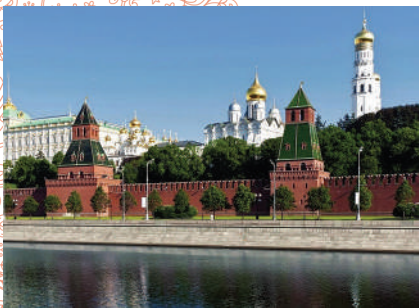
Ride to Moscow. Moscow is the capital of Russia, it's financial, educational and travel center. It stands on the banks of the Moskva river. It's the second most populous city in Europe and the 11th largest city in the world. In 2016, the estimated population was 12.19 million.



Early dinner at the city restaurant



After the lunch you will visit the very center of Russia: **Red Square**. 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 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.



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. You will also have a short break for shopping in **GUM**.

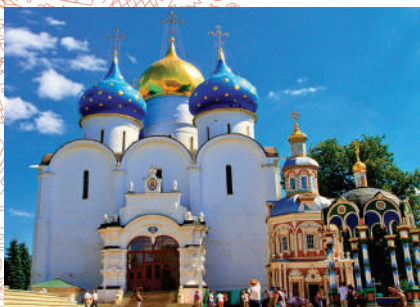


Transfer to the hotel 4*
(international and non-international)

Second day

Sergiev Posad: The Holy Trinity Sergius Lavra (entrance), Metro tour, Option Circus show (B/L/D)

Morning



After buffet breakfast at the hotel your route will be headed to Moscow suburb Sergiev Posad. You will get acquainted with the present day Russian suburban life: one-stored wooden houses with carved window frames, picturesque landscapes, churches.

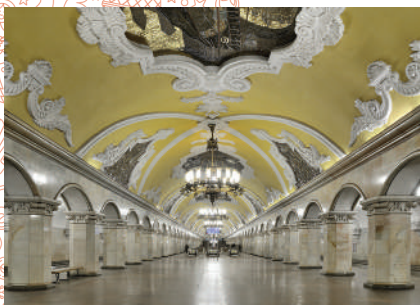
The Trinity-Sergius Lavra is the largest male monastery in Russia. It's a unique monastery complex and spiritual center of Russian Christianity 70 km from Moscow and home to 300 monks. Founded in 14th century by Sergius of Radonezh, whose dedication attracted numerous followers, it became a center of Orthodox power that played crucial role in Russian history several times throughout centuries.

And at the present day it's still a must visit place for Orthodox Christians to come to this place at least one a year.

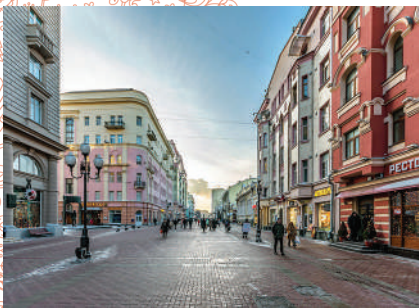


Lunch at the restaurant

Day time



Have a tour in **Moscow metro**. 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.



Evening



Dinner at the city 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.

Third day

Moscow – Murmansk Airport – City tour: Murmansk City Sign, a view from the bus making a circle round the sign; WWII Air Defence Memorial on the other side of the Kola Bay, Alyosha monument, Lenin icebreaker (entrance) (B/L/D)



Breakfast in lunch boxes



Transfer to Sheremetyevo Airport
Flight to Murmansk
Arrival in Murmansk



Lunch at the city restaurant



Day time



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 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.



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.



Evening



Dinner at the city restaurant



Transfer to the Guest house (hotel)



Transfer to Eco Home Guest House



The first 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 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 in eco-tourism. The wooden sturdy houses can place up to 40 people. Panoramic windows offer view over a lovely landscape 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 cozy 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.



Fourth day

Visiting Tundra Park – Saami village - Contact zoo with reindeer, husky dogs, rabbits, feeding reindeers, canicrossing - Guest house – Ashuni adventure game-quest (B/L/D)



Morning



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 **Tundra Park** and **Saami dwelling**. 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 able to get acquainted with culture and customs of nomadic Saami people. You will be able to contact with reindeers, rabbits, husky dogs. You will also enjoy the process of reindeers feeding and canicrossing.



You will be able to enjoy contacting with friendly **Husky dogs**. Siberian huskies are incredibly friendly and hardworking dogs. Dogs of this breed are not prone to aggression. Even towards strangers, Siberian huskies behave, as a rule, very friendly. This quality makes them ideal dogs for families with children - the owner can be sure that the husky will behave towards the child patiently and will be happy to play with him. Siberian huskies are also friendly to other animals. Dogs of this breed are called to work in a team, so they are usually not in struggle for leadership. Siberian huskies are like wolves not only externally. They value freedom of movement. They can't be on a chain, they appreciate space and the ability to run around without a collar.



Canicrossing for beginners and participation in traditional Saami games

an optional activity for husky dog-lovers which includes walking (sometimes running!) a dog attached to your waist up the hill. Husky dogs is an essential part of Saami life. But it's not the only one. You will get acquainted with Saami religious beliefs, feel the energy of the Sacred Saami place", participate in Saami popular games.



Lunch at the local restaurant

Day time



Your day will continue with short trekking **route Ashuni adventure game-quest** with stops on the way with fun tasks to get to know the Northern nature. When you reach Kildin lake you will be offered tea with some snacks and of course, you will try yourself in fishing.



Dinner at the Guest house restaurant



***Option : Sauna 15\$ per 1 person (available for group from 4 persons minimum)**

After an active 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, cold water in the tub. And you might feel more alive than ever. It is told that such a stress for body might even improve your cognitive abilities.



Overnight at the Guest house

Fifth day

Visiting Teriberka - Waterfall - Dragon Eggs Beach Teriberka Sea fishing - Dragon Eggs Beach- Barents seacoast (B/L /D)



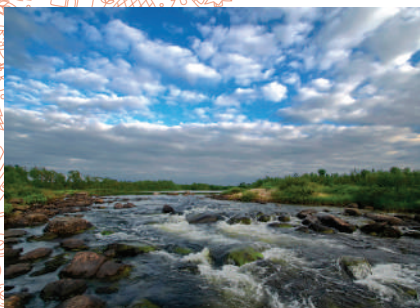
Morning



Buffet breakfast at the hotel



Transfer to Teriberka (130 km) for a visit to a settlement on the Barents sea coast, a popular film-shooting spot famous for its picturesque views. On the way we will have tundra photo stops. You will have chance to see objects of saami religion: seides. Seide, in Sami religion, idols of wood or stone, either natural or slightly shaped by human hands, worshipped as possessing impersonal supernatural power or as actually being inhabited by a spirit with whom one could communicate. Many of the seides were located in areas associated with the subterranean otherworld or world of the dead. Seides could be worshipped by an individual, a family, and even an entire lineage.



One of the many seides was generally singled out as greater than the others and worshipped as the common deity of all in the village. It was situated higher than the others, lesser family gods being placed lower at the site of worship. The seides were believed to protect the people and bring them good fortune in their undertakings. Sacrifices of reindeer, fish, game, and other offerings were made to them. The power of the seide could be determined by the number of sacrifices made to it, because this was a direct reflection of the worshippers' trust and faith in the idol.



Local lunch



The next reason to visit the North is to get acquainted with **life and traditions of the north people**. We will bring you to **Teriberka pier with fishing boats**. The main occupation of Indigenous peoples – Saami, or Lapps – was fishing, sea and land hunting. So their culture is closely connected to the life of the sea. And nowadays sea and its gifts play the major role in the life of locals. Like Saami you will go on a boat for cod fishing. Before boarding you will get a short briefing, life vests and fishing gears.



Close to the village there is a beach called "**Dragon Eggs**". It is all strewn with boulders of different sizes from those that can fit in the palm of your hand, to rather weighty. It took many centuries to the waves of Barents Sea to make them round. They are jokingly called dinosaur eggs, which have petrified with the centuries, when the dragons died out, and those who survived were forced to hide and hibernate. There are many gorges, waterfalls, cliffs and steep ledges, which break the waves of the Barents sea. On the picturesque sandy beach a couple of years ago there was the skeleton of Leviathan, when the sensational film of Andrei Zvyagintsev was shot in Teriberka. But even without props at the edge of the sea you can find the skeletons of whales.



Dinner at the Guest house restaurant



Overnight at the Guest house

Sixth day

Murmansk – Pulkovo Airport, St. Petersburg – (Palace square, Alexander Pillar, Rostral columns, Monument to Nicholas I, Bronze Horsemen, Nevsky prospect, Church of the Savior on Blood (outside), Peter and Paul Fortress (territory), St. Isaac Cathedral (entrance))
(B/L /D)



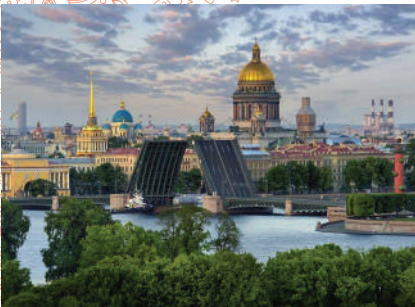
Breakfast in lunch boxes



**Transfer to the Murmansk Airport
Flight to Saint-Petersburg**



Morning



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.



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.



Lunch at the city restaurant



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.



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.



Evening



Dinner at the city restaurant



**Transfer to the hotel 4*
(international and non-international)**

Seventh day

Peterhof park (entrance)– Option River Cruise – Option Ballet show/Folklore Show
(B/L /D)



Morning



Peterhof is now a town outside St.Petersburg, before it used to be the summer residence that Peter the Great built for his wife on the shore of the Gulf of Finland. Story has it that Peter wanted a palace with a park and fountains that could outcome Versailles in beauty. Today **Peterhof parks and Summer palace** is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The major attraction of Peterhof are the fountains. 150 fountains and 4 cascades are an engineering miracle of 18th century: the water flows down from up the hills without any mechanical devices. The fountains are richly decorated with golden statues, making them a joyful sight shining in the sun.

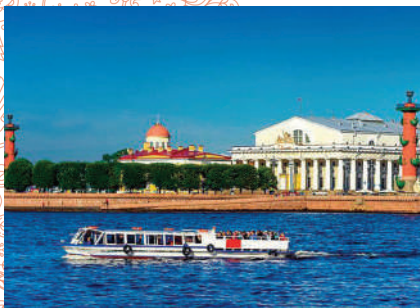
****Fountains stop operating in winter period:
October-May****



Day time



Lunch at the city restaurant



The **river cruise** is a perfect opportunity for those, who wish to see Neva and Fountain rivers, the Summer yard, a worldly famous Aurora cruiser and Michael Palace. The cruise will give you the understanding that St Petersburg is truly the city on Neva river and a sophisticated system of channels. If you see this city from the water, you may really feel that St Petersburg is truly Russian Venice.



Evening



Dinner at the city restaurant



***Option Folklore Show 80\$**

Folklore Show is Cossack (South-Eastern Russian ethnicity) dance and singing show. It will make you understand that Russia is truly a multinational country. Every nationality has its own traditions and features, but friendly and peaceful relationship between cultures is the priority. During the break you will have a chance to enjoy complimentary buffet dinner snacks with the tasting of champagne and red caviar.



***Option Ballet 170\$**

Russian Ballet is the national pride of Russia and the "visiting card" of Russian culture. Originating in France and Italy, it gained a "second homeland" in Russia. Here, in Russia, the classical traditions of ballet were preserved and developed, so that later they could be presented to the whole world again.

The repertoire of Russian ballet theaters is, first of all, the best performances of the 19th and 20th centuries together with experimental contemporary dance performances



Overnight at the hotel

Eighth day

Hermitage - Transfer to the airport - Sheremetyevo Airport
(B/L -/)



Morning



Buffet breakfast at the hotel 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".



Day time



Lunch at the city restaurant



Evening



No dinner



Transfer to the Airport

END OF SERVICES

Contacts



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