



A RUSSIAN EXPERIENCE – 8 days tour



**FIXED DEPARTURES (ENGLISH LANGUAGE)
FROM MARCH 2009 – OCTOBER 2009**

From €942 per person



This is the perfect high-quality, low cost group tour, for your passengers to join other like minded travellers.

Join a well-organized group tour, visiting not just the highlights of Russia's present and former capitals - two unforgettable cities of contrast – but also historic Veliky Nogorod.

Our tours depart on certain Saturdays throughout the year and are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 4 passengers. Simply book your own flight/train to Moscow and departing from St Petersburg (don't forget the visa!) and we will do the rest.



Moscow is the thriving heart of business with fabulous architecture reflecting Stalin's influences, alongside historical churches. It offers designer shops, leafy parks, great restaurants and a wealth of art and culture.



Novgorod Veliky Novgorod - formed in the middle of the 10th century, is one of the most ancient cities of Russia located in its North-West. Novgorod was one of Russia's major centres of literacy and book production. As far back as the 11th century, by the will of the great Prince Yaroslav the Wise, Novgorod saw the first school to educate three hundred children at a time.



St Petersburg is a calm contrast to Moscow. Peter's 'Window on the West' displays classic Italian architecture and canals which are reminiscent of some of Europe's finest cities. A wealth of cultural treasure awaits you in this fascinating city.

- Moscow (2 nights)
- 1st class overnight train Moscow to Novgorod (1 night)
- Novgorod (1 night)
- St Petersburg (3 nights)



YOUR TOUR ITINERARY IN MOSCOW, NOVGOROD AND ST PETERSBURG:



The Kremlin



Christ the Saviour

DAY 1 Moscow (Saturday)

On arrival in Moscow, transfer to your hotel (not included) to check in for 2 nights. The 4 star Hotel Aerostar has a convenient location close to Dynamo metro station and approximately 20 minutes drive from Red Square and the Kremlin.

Evening at leisure.



Tretyakov Gallery



St Basils Cathedral



Assumption Cathedral

DAY 2 Moscow (Sunday)

After breakfast at the hotel, your English speaking tour guide will meet you at the hotel reception at 10.00am for the full day panoramic orientation tour of the city. On this tour you will view the most famous landmarks of the city. The tour sights include Red Square, St Basils Cathedral, the Kremlin, Sparrow Hills, Bolshoi Theatre, Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Victory Park, Novodevichy Convent, the White House, and the famous Moscow streets.

Included in this tour today is a visit to The Tretyakov Gallery.

A convenient stop for lunch will be made (at your own cost)

Return to the hotel at approximately 17.30 hrs: Or, stay in town to return to hotel independently.

Evening at leisure



DAY 3 Moscow (Monday)



Check out and after breakfast, meet your guide in reception at 09.30 hrs to continue to explore the sights of Moscow. Today you will explore the grounds of the magnificent Kremlin and visit one of the cathedrals. Within the territory is the fascinating Kremlin Armoury Museum. Your guide will include a visit to this spectacular collection of costumes, silver and arms, amongst a vast treasure trove of exhibits.

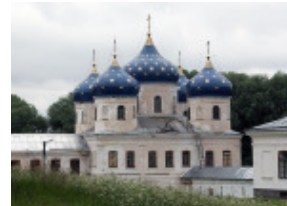
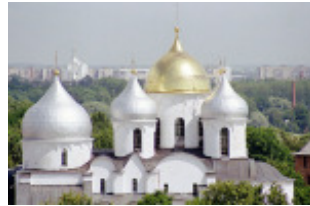
Lunch stop (at your own cost)

After lunch, reassemble and your guide will take you on a walking tour along the Arbat where you will have the opportunity to soak up the Moscow culture and browse or shop at leisure. You will also enjoy a tour of the spectacular underground stations in Moscow.

Return to the hotel at approximately 1700 hrs to relax and enjoy dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Re-assemble in reception at approximately 20.30 hrs for transfer with your guide from the hotel to the Leningradsky Rail Station for your overnight train journey to Novgorod traveling in first class 2 berth compartments.

Trains depart around 22.00 hrs and arrive next day at around 06.00 according to schedule.



DAY 4 Novgorod (Tuesday)

Transfer with local guide to the hotel for breakfast.

09.00 depart the hotel for your city tour of Novgorod the Great, including visits to the Yaroslavl Court, the Kremlin and St Sophia Cathedral, the town's centre piece. This cathedral from the 11th century is considered to be one of the oldest surviving Orthodox churches in Russia. Opportunity for lunch stop (at your own cost).

Continue with a visit to the open air museum Vitoslavlitsy. This amazing collection in parkland, includes original traditional intricate wooden churches and peasant houses brought to the site for posterity. To conclude your tour of Novgorod, is a visit to the 12th century Yuriev monastery – a working orthodox monastery and architectural museum, set in peaceful marshlands, with wonderful open views to the town. A highlight of this visit is the Cathedral of St George.

Return to the hotel at approximately 16.00 hrs

Evening at leisure.



DAY 5 Novgorod (Wednesday)

Check out* and 07.00 hrs transfer to the Novgorod railway station for your journey to St Petersburg, where you will be met by your local English speaking guide (11.30 hrs).

Now commence your panoramic orientation tour, which will include all the major sights of this beautiful city. You will see the world renowned Hermitage Museum, housed in the Winter Palace, Peter and Paul Fortress and also pass along the famous Nevskij Prospect where a lunch stop is included (at your own cost).

St Isaac's cathedral is also on our route, as well as the Church of the Spilled Blood. (No entrances included this day).

Return to the hotel at approximately 16.30 hrs for check in.

Evening at leisure

* Breakfast in hotel or packed breakfast provided.



The Hermitage



Peter and Paul Fortress

DAY 6 St Petersburg (Thursday)

After breakfast, meet your guide in reception at 10.30 hrs for today's tour. This starts with a visit to the outstanding fort, which guards the city of St Petersburg, and is located on an island, facing the Hermitage and dominating River Neva – the Peter and Paul Fortress. It was built during the Russian-Swedish war, but was never used as a fortress, so its bastions were turned into political prison cells. There, Prince Alexei, son of Peter the Great, Princess Tarakanova, a mysterious pretender to the throne, writer Dostoevsky, Decembrists and revolutionaries were held prisoners.

Peter and Paul Cathedral was designed by Tressini and contains the remains of Russian rulers from 1725 to the last Tsar Nicholas II and his family.

Next a visit to the Hermitage museum, the magnificent collection of art in the winter palace of Catherine the Great. This is one of the largest museums in the world, founded in 1764. Its collection includes over 2.7 million items, including masterpieces of Leonardo Da Vinci, Raphael, Rembrandt, Rubens, French impressionists, - a feast indeed for lovers of art, antiques and architecture.

Opportunity for short lunch break (at your own cost) in the Hermitage. Approx 2 hours guided tour plus 1 hour free time in the museum.

Return to the hotel at 16.30hrs. Or stay in Hermitage/town to return independently.

Evening at leisure.



DAY 7 St Petersburg (Friday)

After breakfast, meet your guide in reception at 09.30 hrs, for an out of town visit to another of St Petersburg's most prized Palaces. In the village of Pushkin (formally Tsarskoye Selo) 29km south of St. Petersburg, is Catherine's Summer Palace. The construction of the palace for the Empress Catherine started in 1717. A park in the French style was laid out around it and in the middle of 18th century, Tsarskoye Selo became the official royal summer residence of the Tsars. This palace is famous for the 'Amber Room', now completely restored to its former glory. Not far from Catherine's Palace is the Lyceum where the great poet Alexander Pushkin studied (visit not included).

Return to your hotel at approximately 14.30 hrs and remainder of day at leisure.

Evening at leisure.

DAY 8 St Petersburg (Saturday)

After breakfast at your hotel, check out by 11.00 am and you may pre-book a departure transfer to the airport / station as required (not included).

Further services / programme extensions can be provided upon request.

The tour price includes:

- Accommodation based on two persons sharing a twin room:
Moscow – 4 star Aerostar Hotel, standard twin room
Novgorod – Volkhov Hotel, standard twin room
St. Petersburg – 4 star Park Inn Pribaltiskaya Hotel, standard twin room
- Breakfast daily starting on Sunday and ending on Saturday
- 1 x Dinner in Moscow (special dietary requests in advance please)
- Entrances:
Moscow: Tretyakov Gallery, Kremlin with Armoury museum
Novgorod: Kremlin, St Sophia Cathedral, Vitoslavlitsy open air museum, Yuriev monastery
St Petersburg: Hermitage Museum, Peter and Paul Fortress, Catherine's Palace
- first class train Moscow-Novgorod (sharing 2 berth compartment)
- Day train Novgorod to St Petersburg
- Services of an English speaking guide
- Visa support letter for duration of tour
- 24-hour emergency contact





NETT agent Prices: Per person in Euro

Low-season: March to April and October 2009

€942 per person based on two persons sharing a twin

€209 Single room supplement (does not apply to train journey)

€150 Single supplement on train Moscow-Novgorod (1st class)

High season: May – September 2009

€1036 per person based on two persons sharing a twin

€328 Single room supplement (does not apply to train journey)

€150 Single supplement on train Moscow-Novgorod (1st class)



Not included in price:

- Airport arrival and departure transfers
- Any meals, beverages, sightseeing entrance fees not specified in the inclusions
- Photo and video charges at museums and places of interest
- Extra personal costs incurred at the hotel
- Extended visa support
- Visa service

15 x departure dates in 2009:

Low season - 28 March, 11 April, 25 April, 17 Oct

High season - 02 May, 23 May, 30 May, 13 June, 04 July, 18 July, 01 August, 15 August, 29

August, 12 Sept, 26 Sept

*Tour operates with a minimum of 2 persons.

Notes:

Hotel - check in after 14.00 hours only. Check out by 11.00 hours

Singles – remember to add the train supplement if you require single compartment. If you do not the passenger may be sharing with a stranger of either sex!

Singles – sorry, we do not operate a shared room scheme for single travellers

Walking – day 3 in Moscow includes a walking tour (no transport) using escalators in the metro.

Please consider mobility of passengers

Lunch stops are made at inexpensive locations for speed and affordability

Visa support – is supplied for duration of tour only. Extension of visa support costs EUR 25 per person.

Russian Visa - Don't forget you need to obtain a tourist visa BEFORE arrival in Russia. Remember to apply at least 1 month prior to travel.

Programme may vary and is subject to confirmation on arrival

We reserve the right to substitute hotels of a similar standard. In St Petersburg a central 3 star may be used.

Interesting websites for more destination information:

Moscow

www.kreml.ru

www.tretyakovgallery.ru

www.shm.ru

Novgorod

<http://www.novgorod.ru/english>

St Petersburg

http://www.hermitagemuseum.org/html_E/index.html

<http://eng.tzar.ru/catherine>

<http://www.pavlovsk.org/>

<http://www.spbmuseum.ru>

<http://www.aurora.org.ru/eng/index.php?theme=info>

<http://www.rusmuseum.ru/eng/>

To make a reservation please contact reservations@aslatravelgroup.com

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