

RUSSIAN EXTRAVAGANZA (ST. PETERSBURG & MOSCOW)

Day 1 - ARRIVE ST. PETERSBURG

Arrive St Petersburg. Meeting and assistance on arrival and transfer to your pre-reserved hotel.

Check in the hotel and balance day at leisure to relax.

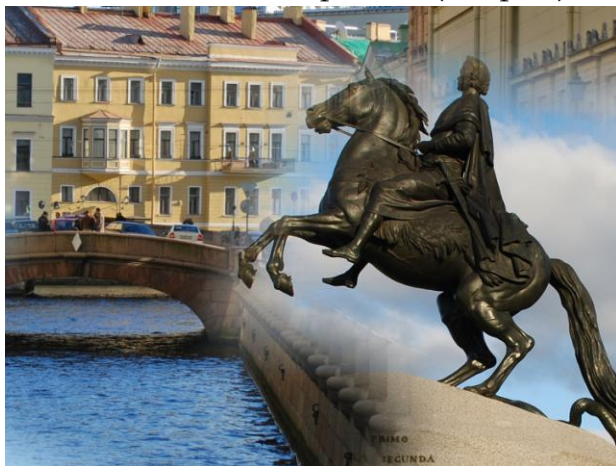
Overnight at the hotel.

Day 2 - ST. PETERSBURG

Breakfast at the hotel.

Meeting with your tour-guide at the hotel lobby to proceed for a panoramic sightseeing tour of this Spectacular City.

St. Petersburg, designated as a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO also has the name of the "Northern Venice" due to numerous canals, islands and bridges that were built there to drain the marshy soil and tame impetuous Neva. Luxury and technical sophistication used during the construction, the wealth of the tsar's court can be seen in numerous palaces and theatres, the luxurious facades which decorate the broad avenues, here are known as "Perspective" (Prospekt).



Statue of Peter the Great, Russian Czar and founder of Saint-Petersburg. Today the Statue of Peter the Great is one of the symbols of Saint -Petersburg.

Saint Isaac Cathedral, which can be truly called an architectural marvel. Built by the French-born architect Auguste Montferrand to be the main church of the Russian Empire, the cathedral was under construction for 40 years (1818-1858), and was decorated in the most elaborate way possible. When you enter the cathedral you pass through one of the porticos made of single pieces of red granite and weigh 80 tons (about 177,770 pounds) each. Inside the church many of the icons were created using mosaic techniques and the iconostasis (the icon wall that separates the altar from the rest of the church) is decorated with 8 malachite and 2 lapis lazuli columns. The cathedral, which can accommodate 14,000 worshippers, now serves as a museum and services are held only on significant ecclesiastical-holidays.



Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood, well-known cathedral built up in the so typically Russian style with its multicolored cupolas and its gold onion domes, The name of the Cathedral refers to the blood of the assassinated Alexander II of Russia, who was

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mortally wounded on that site on March 13, 1881.



Peter & Paul fortress, located on the small island opposite the Winter palace, controlling three branches of the Neva River, the Fortress was intended to protect the city from attacks by maritime way. Tsars also used it as a political prison; there they imprisoned their main competitors, mostly intellectuals. Now it is a museum, and also one of the best locations in the city for panoramic views from the south bank of the Neva River. Every day at midday you can hear two shots of the gun from the top of its bulwarks. A small wooden church that initially was inside the big fortress subjected to different jobs of enlargement over the years and eventually became the cathedral.



State Hermitage Museum, one of the largest museums in the world, with 3 million works of art and one of the oldest art galleries and museums of human history and culture in the world, and Winter Palace, former residence of the Tsars.



In the evening we will proceed to the theatre to witness a performance of the world famous **Russian Ballet (Optional)**.



After the performance, transfer to the hotel, for overnight.

Day 3 - ST. PETERSBURG

After breakfast we will proceed for yet another day sightseeing the beautiful St. Petersburg.

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Visit of Pushkin town which was founded in the 18th century as the summer residence of the Russian Tsars under the name "Tsarskoye Selo" (Royal Village). We will see magnificent Catherine Palace and gardens, which after the October Revolution became a museum, while some other mansions of the nobility were converted into educational and sanitary institutions.



Return to Saint Petersburg to enjoy a very picturesque boat ride on the Neva River.

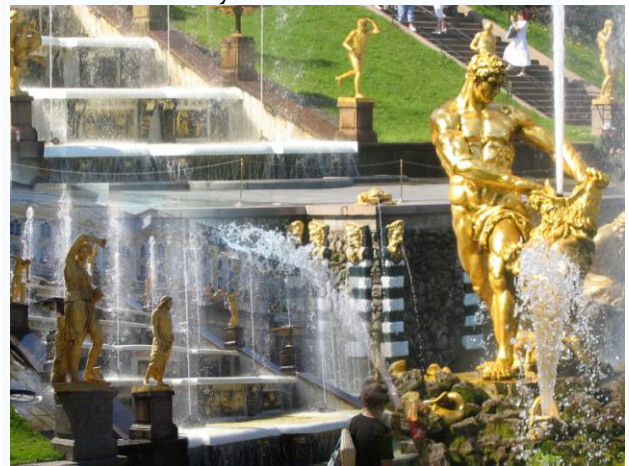


Later transfer back to the hotel for overnight.

Day 4 - ST. PETERSBURG / MOSCOW

Breakfast at the hotel and depart to visit the Luxurious Peterhof, the former residence of

Tzars, and is a municipal town within Petrodvortsovy District of the federal city of Saint Petersburg on the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland. It hosts one of two campuses of Saint Petersburg State University, a series of palaces and gardens, laid out on the orders of Peter the Great, and called the "Russian Versailles". The palace-ensemble along with the city center is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will spend the whole day in Peterhof.



In the evening return to St. Petersburg and transfer to the Moskovsky railway station to board the train for Moscow.

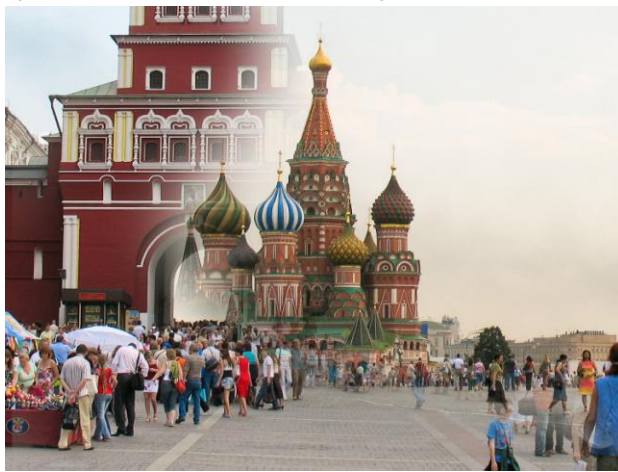
Overnight on board the train.

Day 5 - MOSCOW

Arrival at Leningradsky Railway Station / Moscow. Meeting and assistance on arrival and proceed for Red Square, undoubtedly one of the most beautiful in the world, which has been designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. It is named for its surrounding buildings made from red bricks: the History Museum, the Kremlin walls, and St. Basil's Cathedral with its famous onion domes, which was built on the order of Ivan the Terrible. Red Square is also home to the Lenin

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Mausoleum, also known as **Lenin's Tomb**, that serves as the current resting place of Vladimir Lenin, the leader of October Revolution in 1917. His embalmed body has been on public display there since the year he died in 1924. The tomb's monumental granite structure incorporates some elements from ancient mausoleums, such as the Step Pyramid and the Tomb of Cyrus the Great.

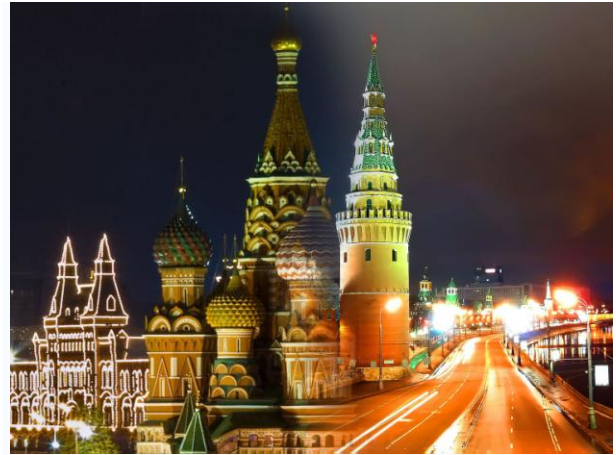


Check in at the hotel.

Evening proceed for **Sparrow Hills** – A Hill on the right bank of the Moscow River and one of the highest points in the Moscow with an altitude of up to 220m (6070 m above river level) and is a very good platform, which gives a panoramic view of almost the entire city.

Return to the hotel for overnight.

Day 6 - MOSCOW



After breakfast we start our tour to visit the **Kremlin**, which is a historic fortified complex that used to be the residence of the Tzar family and located in the heart of Moscow. Inside we will visit the following

Tzar Cannon, a huge cannon, commissioned in 1586 by Russian Tsar Feodor and cast by Andrey Chokhov. The cannon weighs nearly 38 metric tonnes and has a length of 5.34 meters (17.5 feet), a calibre of 890 mm (35 inches), and an external diameter of 1200 mm (41 inches). The *Guinness Book of Records* lists it as the largest howitzer ever made.



Tzar Bell, a huge bell on display on the grounds of the Moscow Kremlin. The bell was commissioned by Empress Anna, niece of Peter the Great. The bell was never rung —

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during a fire in 1737, a huge slab (11.5 tons) cracked off while it was still in the casting pit.

Cathedral Square, the central square of the Moscow Kremlin where all of its streets used to converge in the 15th century.

Palace of Congresses, Kremlin Walls,

Armory Chamber, a treasure-house, is a part of the Grand Kremlin Palace's complex,

Later we will proceed for short ride on the **Moscow Metro**, the world's second most heavily used rapid-transit system. Opened in 1935, it is well known for the ornate design of many of its stations, which contain outstanding examples of socialist realist art. Moscow Metro was considered the "People's Palace". The most important artists of that epoch took part in its decoration, and materials were brought from all corners of the country, representing the union of the Soviet people. The metro is still the main mode of transportation in the city and one of the most important even in the world, with its 200 km of railway lines and 145 stations. We will visit the most important stations constructed of luxurious materials - more than 20 types of marble, granite, onyx, as well as decorations of painting, majolica, glass, mural painting

and

mosaic.



In the evening we will proceed to the venue to witness the world famed **Russian Circus**.



Later transfer back to the hotel for overnight.

Day 7 - DEPART MOSCOW

After breakfast, morning at leisure and in time transfer to the airport to connect flight back home.