

Imperial and Orthodox Russia
**St. Petersburg, Moscow, Vladimir, Suzdal, Kostroma, Yaroslavl, Rostov-the-Great, Peryaslavl-
Zalessky, Zagorsk**
8 days – 7 nights
Culture, History, Discovery

Day 1 – Tue: St. Petersburg

Upon your arrival in St. Petersburg you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Remainder of the day is at leisure to discover this glorious city. [B]

Day 2 – Wed: St. Petersburg

Buffet breakfast start your morning tour of the city. St. Petersburg is one of the most mysterious cities. Built on a swamp, it quickly turned into a pearl of European architecture. Myths and legends of the city on the Neva River, about which we'll tell you, are still present to this day. The tour is not only about sights themselves, but also about prominent people who created our city, lived and worked on the banks of the Neva. During our tour you will get acquainted with the main sights of St. Petersburg including a visit to Peter and Paul Fortress. Time for lunch on your own and in the afternoon tour the Main Museum Complex of the Hermitage that is among the largest, oldest and most respected art museums in the world and is the largest art gallery in Russia housing a collection of over 3 million items. The heart of the museum is the Tsars' Theater and the former Winter Palace of the Russian Tsars that offers magnificent walking tours through the staterooms. Return to the hotel for overnight. [B]

Day 3 – Thu: St. Petersburg

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before this morning's visit to Peterhof. Many people compare Peterhof to Versailles, but when you visit Peterhof you will find that, without a doubt, the park and its numerous palaces surpass the famous residence of the French kings. Founded in the early XVIII century by Emperor Peter I in the vicinity of the new capital, Peterhof has become one of the most luxurious royal summer residences and a kind of triumphal monument to the successful completion of Russia's struggle for access to the Baltic Sea. Also visit the Grand Palace of Peter the Great and take a walking tour of the Lower Park with fountains. The rests of the day is at leisure to continue discovering this fascinating city. Overnight at hotel. [B]

Day 4 – Fri: St. Petersburg, Moscow

Be ready after your breakfast to take your bus transfer to the rail station. There board your morning "Sapsan" high-speed express train to Moscow*. Arrive in to Moscow after 4 hours and meet with your guide on the platform to accompany you on your bus transfer from to the hotel for check-in. After you're settled start you tour to the Kremlin that has always been perceived as a symbol of power and might of the Russian state, the national idea expressed in stone. Each era in the history of Russia left its significant architectural trace in the Kremlin. On the territory of the Kremlin there are buildings of 5 Russian Orthodox Cathedrals among which the most famous is the Cathedral of Assumption (1475–79) — Russia's principal church; the Bell Tower named after Ivan the Great (1505–08); the Tsar Bell — the biggest bell in the world (1733-35); the Tsar Cannon with the largest caliber of any gun in the world (1586); the Grand Kremlin Palace (which is a group of several buildings with the main section dating back to 1838–1849); the Arsenal (early 19th cent); the Palace of Congresses (1961) and many other objects. The Uspensky (Assumption) Cathedral is one of the oldest edifices of the Kremlin. It was built by the Italian architect Aristotle Fiorovanti, who had spent many years in Russia studying traditional architecture. Topped by five gilt domes, it is both austere and solemn. It contains rare ancient paintings, including the icon of the Virgin of Vladimir (11th cent) and the icons of St. George (12th cent) and the Trinity (14th cent). The carved throne of Ivan the Terrible also stands here. Return to the hotel for overnight. [B]

**Train schedule is subject to final reconfirmation at the time of booking.*

Day 5 – Sat: Moscow

After breakfast at your hotel start the tour of Moscow, the capital of Russia, one of the biggest cities of the world with a population of almost 10 million people and occupying an area of over 255,000 acres. Moscow's history covers about two thousand years, though the earliest annals set the date of its foundation as 1147, which is the city's official "birthday". The heart of the city is the Kremlin flanked by the Red Square crowned by the unique and gorgeous St. Basil's Cathedral. The city tour includes visits to both the historical center of the city (the Red Square, the Sofiiskaya Embankment with the building of the St. Sophia Cathedral and the panorama of the Kremlin walls, etc.) and its modern part (the Lenin (Vorobiev) Hills — the highest place in the city, providing a beautiful view; the Poklonnaya Hill where there is a monument commemorating defenders of the city during the World War Two. The rest of the day is free for you to complete the visit, go shopping or just relax. Overnight at hotel. [B]

Day 6 – Sun: Moscow, Vladimir, Suzdal

After breakfast departure from the hotel to Vladimir where, upon arrival, you'll enjoy a city tour including the Golden Gates (1158-1164) that are the only preserved instance of the ancient Russian City Gates. Visit to the Uspensky (Assumption) Cathedral (originally built in 1158-61 and rebuilt in 1185-89). The Cathedral used to be the mother church of medieval Russia in the 13th and 14th centuries and is now part of the World Heritage Site known as "White Monuments" of Vladimir and Suzdal. After the visit continue to Suzdal in time for lunch on your own. In the afternoon take a tour of the city including a visit to the Kremlin, dating back to the 10th century and originally built as a fortress or citadel and the religious and administrative center of the city for centuries. Continue the city tour by visiting Spaso-Evfimievsky Monastery (1352), another UNESCO World Heritage site. Then, visit the open-air Museum of Wooden Architecture, an ensemble of 18th and 19th century buildings brought here from all villages in the areas around Suzdal and Vladimir. Now is time for a break to taste a local delicacy, the oldest Russian drink based on honey, at the "Suzdalskaya Medovukha". Sip the drink, watch a folklore dance performance and participate in traditional Russian games. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [B/D]

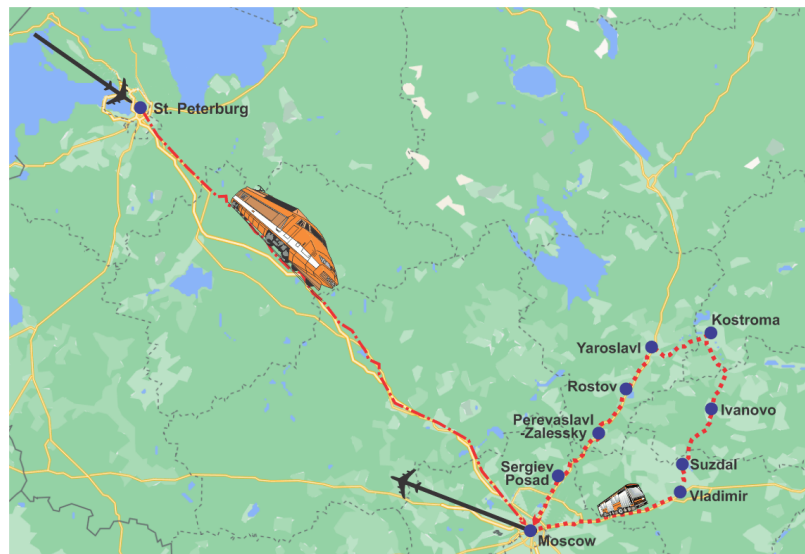
Day 7 – Mon: Suzdal, Kostroma, Yaroslavl

After breakfast leave for Kostroma to enjoy a panoramic tour of the city viewing Ipatievsky Monastery (early 14th century) and take pictures of its white stonewall with towers and domes that look very picturesque against the backdrop of amazing landscapes. Lunch at restaurant "Slavyansky" followed by vodka tasting at Snow Maiden House. Then, visit the Museum of Flax and Bark to learn interesting facts about the traditional Russian handicrafts and to have a master class on how to make souvenirs of birch bark or mascots of flax. Continue to Yaroslavl to check in at the hotel and have free time to relax. For those wishing to continue sightseeing and wish to experience more of the Russian countryside we offer optionally a boat tour (depends upon availability and weather conditions). Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [B/L/D]

Day 8 – Tue: Yaroslavl, Rostov-The Great, Peryaslavl-Zalessky, Zagorsk, Moscow, USA

After breakfast start the day with an overview of the Transfiguration Monastery (13th century) that is for hundreds of years was one of the biggest monasteries in Russia. Continue to Rostov-the-Great with a photo stop to view the Kremlin, a complex of palaces, churches, and towers that was built between 1670 and 1683.

Departure for Pereyaslavl-Zalessky to visit to the "House of Berendey" – a



traditionally decorated Russian “Izba” or wooden house where you will have a class on baking pancakes and enjoy a tea with the pancakes. Continue your trip to Zagorsk where you’ll visit St. Trinity - Sergius Monastery (1345), the most important Russian Monastery and the spiritual center of the Russian Orthodox Church. Lunch at restaurant “Russkiy Dvorik”. After lunch continue to Moscow arriving in the evening in time to be dropped off t the airport and board your flight back home. [B]

[B] = Breakfast | [B/L] = Breakfast and Lunch | [B/D] = Breakfast and Dinner | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Airfare USA-St. Petersburg//Moscow-USA
- Arrival and departure transfers
- 7 nights accommodation
 - St. Petersburg – 3 nights
 - Moscow – 2 nights
 - Suzdal – 1 night
 - Yaroslavl – 1 night
- Buffet breakfast daily
 - 2 lunches
 - 2 dinners
 - 2 Tastings
- Sightseeing tours:
 - Visit to the Hermitage Museum
 - Panoramic tour of St. Petersburg
 - Visit to the Kremlin
 - Moscow’s most prominent highlights
 - Vladimir Golden Gates and Cathedral
 - Suzdal Citadel

- Kostroma Monastery
- Yaroslavl Transfiguration Monastery
- Zagorsk St. Trinity - Sergius Monastery
- Sapsan express train St.Petersburg – Moscow in economy class
- Transportation by comfortable bus on the tour
- Entrance fees to the sites visited
- English speaking tour guides in both cities

Tour does not include:

- Taxes or surcharges related to airline tickets
- Travel insurance
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Other meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Extras and gratuities
- Early check-in, late check-out
- Expenses of personal nature

Hotels in your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Room Type	Tripadvisor
St. Petersburg	Belmond Grand Hotel Europe	Superior	4.5
Moscow	Marriott Royal Aurora	Deluxe	4.5
Suzdal	Pushkarskaya Sloboda	Standard	4.5
Yaroslavl	SK Royal	Standard	4.5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

From: \$2,035 including airfare

Add-ons available from all US gateways.

Prices are per person and may change without notice

These programs can be customized for individuals and for groups

Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

• **Airfare**

We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

• **Program**

You may add or remove;

- Trip days
- Cities and sites
- Additional nights
- Meals

- **Other options**
 - The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
 - If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

- **Quotation**

Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: RU03LED21ST

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.

We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.