

## **The Best of Russia (Deluxe Tour 4\*-5\* Hotels)**

**Duration: 13 day/12 night**

### **Cities Covered:**

- 1. Moscow**
- 2. Sergiev Posad**
- 3. Rostov the Great**
- 4. Yaroslavl**
- 5. Suzdal**
- 6. Bogolubovo**
- 7. Vladimir**
- 8. St Petersburg**
- 9. Novgorod**

Per person cost for the itinerary below:

10 – 15 people group: **5 875 USD**

Included are:

#### **1. Accommodation**

Moscow:	Golden Apple Hotel	Room Category: <b>Deluxe</b>
Suzdal :	Nikolayevsky Posad Art-Hotel	Room Category: <b>Semi-Lux</b>
Yaroslav:	Ring Premier Hotel	Room Category: <b>Standard w/king-size</b>
St Petersburg:	Moika 22 Kempinski Hotel	Room Category: <b>Superior Room</b>

- 2. Professional English-Speaking guides for all cities/towns as per itinerary**
- 3. Professional driver**
- 4. Comfortable air-conditioned non-smoking vehicle (mini-bus) Mercedes Sprinter of similar.**
- 5. ALL admissions as per itinerary**
- 6. Lunches on ALL touring days, except arrival day, departure day in St.Petersburg**
- 7. Tickets for fast Sapsan Train: Vladimir – St.Petersburg FIRST CLASS**
- 8. Group Arrival transfer in St.Petersburg from train station to hotel**
- 9. Individual arrival transfer for each couple in Moscow**
- 10. Individual departure transfer for each couple in St.Petersburg**
- 11. Professional English-speaking (or any other language upon request) TOUR LEADER to accompany the group while on tour.**

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

- 1. Dinners**
- 2. Welcome dinner is NOT included, BUT reservation will be made and customers will be able to order A la carte.**

### **Terms and Conditions:**

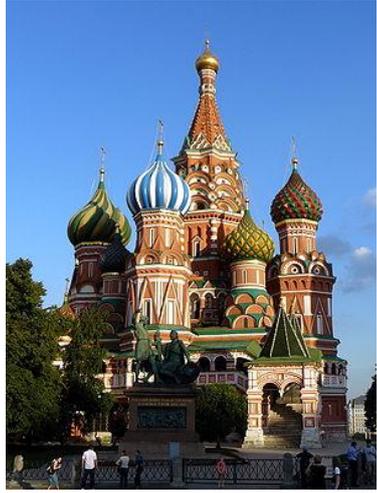
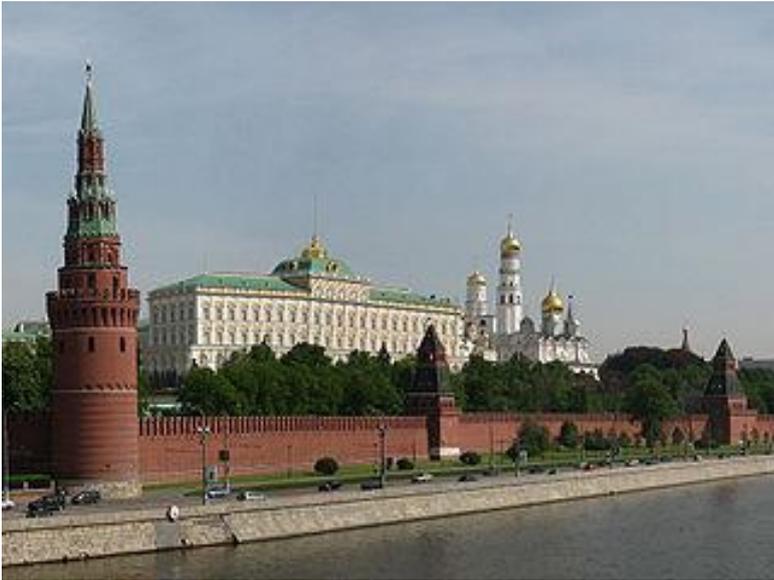
**30 % down payment to reserve the tour**

**30 % advance payment 2 months before the tour**

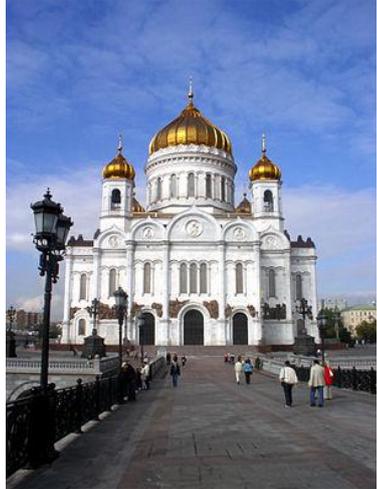
**40% balance payment 2 weeks before the tour**

**If cancellation occurs 15-3 days before the tour – 30% of the total tour cost is refundable.**

**Less than 48 hrs before the trip: 100 % tour prepayment is non-refundable. Must have travel insurance to cover the expenses.**

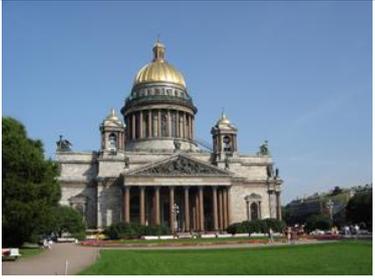
Day	City	Itinerary	
1	Moscow 1st	<p>Arrival, transfer to the hotel, check in the hotel</p> <p>Lunch on your own</p> <p><u>A walk in the historical centre of the city with a visit to St Basil Cathedral.</u></p> <p>You will see and hear the stories of the most popular places of the city: Red Square, the hub of Russia, with its fantastic "stone flower"- St. Basil Cathedral, one of the symbols of Moscow, Lenin's Mausoleum and elegant shopping mall GUM; fancy Manezhnaya Square with the Zero Kilometer, a starting point for all Moscow roads; Alexander's Garden with the eternal flame, a WW2 memorial, where you might watch a change of guards.</p> <p><b>Welcome dinner all together.</b></p>	
2	Moscow 2nd	<p>10am meeting at the hotel</p> <p><u>a tour of the Kremlin and Armoury museum</u></p> <p>The Kremlin used to be a fortress then the residence of the Russian tsars. After the Revolution of 1917 the USSR Government moved in it. Now it is the seat of the Russian President and a unique cultural museum complex comprising palaces, cathedrals and museums.</p> <p>We will tour the grounds of the Kremlin and visit its cathedrals striking with architecture, ancient frescoes and icons: Assumption Cathedral where Russian tsars and emperors were crowned; Archangel Cathedral - the burial vault of the Russian tsars until 18th centuries; and Annunciation Cathedral, a home church for the royalty. You will get to meet the 2 prominent Russian tsars in person: the Tsar Bell and the Tsar Cannon, the biggest in the world.</p> <p>Kremlin is sure to reveal you some mysteries of the Russian state and soul.: )</p>	 

While touring the Kremlin we also visit Armoury museum, famous for the Tsar's regalia such as jewelry crowns, orbs and scepters, clothing of the Russian tsars and tsarinas, royal carriages, collection of arms and armour, gifts to the Russian Tsars from various countries of the West and

		<p>the East, and the illustrious collection of Faberge Easter eggs.</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>a <u>walk along Arbat Street</u>, a colorful promenade with numerous souvenir stalls, antique stores, cafes, street musicians and painters.</p> <p>A short <u>Metro tour</u> to visit most beautiful stations of world famous Moscow subway</p>	
3	Moscow 3rd	<p>10am meeting at the hotel a <u>city tour (including lunch)</u> will give you a general idea of the Russian capital.</p> <p>You will get to see its old and new streets and squares: notorious Lubyanskaya Square with headquarters of the former KGB; Theatre Square with the stunning Bolshoi Theatre; Tverskaya street, the main street of the city, where we will visit Yeleseyevskiy Grocery Store- one of a kind-built as a palace and turned into a luxurious grocery store more than a hundred years ago; St Barbara street, where you can see medieval Moscow; Boulevard Ring with exquisite cozy 18-19th century mansions of Moscow Nobility; Kutuzovskiy Avenue with the Triumphal Arch; “Moscow city” complex- new growing business district of high rises.</p> <p>We will drive along the embankment of the Moskva River and see a huge controversial statue to Peter the Great located right in the river; pass by the legendary Gorkiy Park; and the White House, the seat of Russian government.</p> <p>We will also make several stops at the most picturesque places of the city: Christ the Savior Cathedral, the main church in Russia and a foot bridge next to it, offering some of the best views of the city; Novodevichiy (New Maiden) Convent noted for its architectural beauty and historical significance, and the New Maiden Cemetery where the outstanding people of Russia have been buried for over a century; stop by the house-museum of Leo Tolstoy, where the great Russian writer lived for more then 20 years; Victory Park, memorial complex dedicated to the WW2; Sparrow Hills known for the main building of Moscow State University and the observation platform offering a fascinating view of the huge megalopolis.</p> <p>Everywhere you will feel the spirit of the city!</p>	   

<p>4</p> <p>Golden Ring 1st</p>		<p>9am meeting at the hotel</p> <p><u>Transfer to Sergiev Posad, tour of St Trinity Sergiy Monastery</u></p> <p>Sergiev Posad is the centre of the Russian Orthodoxy.</p> <p>Sergiyev Posad grew around the Holy Trinity St Sergiy Monastery, founded by the most revered Russian saint- Sergiy of Radonezh in 1337. The complex of the Monastery is one of the finest examples of the church architecture. Today this working monastery is the official residence of the Russian Patriarch, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, a seat of the theological academy and the center of pilgrimage.</p> <p>Transfer to Rostov the Great</p> <p><u>Rostov the Great</u>, one of the oldest Russian cities (first written record dating to 862), picturesquely located by the Nero lake; the center of enamel production.</p> <p>Tour of Rostov: a visit to the Kremlin complex (Kremlin grounds, enamel exhibition, Kremlin walls)</p> <p>Transfer to Yaroslavl. Check-in the hotel.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p>5</p> <p>Golden Ring 2nd</p>		<p>9.30 am Yaroslavl, founded in the 9<sup>th</sup> century is a big industrial city with population over 500 000 people, the capital city of Yaroslavl region, famous for its unique style of 16-17<sup>th</sup> century architecture and an outstanding school of icon painting</p> <p>A tour of Yaroslavl including a driving tour of the city and visits to the Church of Elijah the Prophet and Historical and Cultural museum-reserve located on the grounds of Savior Transfiguration Monastery</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Transfer to Suzdal, check in the hotel</p> 

6	Golden Ring 3rd	<p>9.30am Suzdal , a tiny town with population of 13 thousand people is located about 200 km east of Moscow. It is known as the "Pearl of the Golden Ring," and for good reason. As a designated world historical site, it has ignored the modern world and retained a picturesque beauty and tranquility that has to be experienced to be believed. Suzdal has been preserved as it was during medieval times. Every view in this idyllic place is a photo moment waiting to be taken advantage of. There are literally too many beautiful wooden houses and religious structures to list, causing sensory overload that prompts one to think to oneself, "I could live here."</p> <p>10am A tour of Suzdal including a driving tour of the city with visits to the Kremlin, the core of the city; the museum of Wooden Architecture and Peasant Life; a tour of St Ephymius Monastery/or Intercession Convent and Lunch.</p> <p>Lunch during the day</p>	 
7	Golden Ring 4th	<p>10am a visit to Bogolubovo, the former residence of prince of Vladimir (complex built in 12-18<sup>th</sup> centuries) and the church of Intercession on Nerl (12<sup>th</sup> century )</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Vladimir, once a capital of a mighty Russian principality, a present-day administrative centre of the region, noted for the splendid 12th century white stone monuments listed by UNESCO in the heritage list: the Golden Gates, the church of St Demetrious and the Assumption Cathedral</p> <p>The tour of the city includes a driving tour and a visit to the Assumption Cathedral (1158).</p> <p>Transfer to the train station</p> <p>17.10 – take Sapsan bullet train to St.Petersburg</p> <p>23.24 – arrival to St.Petersburg. Transfer from train station to hotel. Check in. Relax, go to sleep.</p>	
8	St.Pete 1st	<p>10.00 meet your guide and driver at the hotel. Depart to the Hermitage Museum.</p> <p>10.30 – 14.30 <b><u>Hermitage Museum</u></b> tour.</p> <p>Pre-booked lunch in a Russian restaurant. (Recommendation: Vesna Restaurant)</p> <p>17.00 – 18.00 <b><u>Canal boat tour.</u></b></p> <p>18.30 Return back to hotel.</p>	

9	St.Pete 2nd	<p>9.00 meet your guide and driver at the hotel. Depart to the Imperial Residence of <b>Tsarskoye Selo</b> to tour <b>Catherine's palace</b> with the famous Amber Room and Park. Pre-booked lunch Podvorye restaurant. Depart to <b>Pavlovsk Imperial Residence</b>.</p> 	
10	St.Pete 3rd	<p>9.30 meet your guide and driver at the hotel, depart for the <b>City Tour</b> with pre-booked Lunch in a Russian Restaurant during the day. Visit: - <b>Peter and Paul Fortress</b> - <b>Church on the Spilled Blood</b> - <b>St.Isaac's Cathedral</b> - souvenir/gift shopping (if any needed)</p> <p>18.00 Return back to hotel.</p>  	 
11	St.Pete 4th	<p>9.30 Meet your guide and depart by bus to <b>Peterhof Summer Residence</b>. Return back to the city. <b>Subway tour</b>.</p>	



12 St.Pete 5th

A day out in Novgorod. Meet your guide and driver early in the morning and set off to Novgorod. (Driving time expected to be around 2-3 hrs depending on traffic)

Tour of the Novgorod Kremlin , St.Sophia Cathedral and the Millenium Monument. Lunch in a local café. Panoramic drive around the town.



13 St.Pete 6th

Transfers to the airport.