



**VISIT MOSCOW
TOURS**

Russia, Moscow, 115419
Shabolovka 34, building 5
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Saint Petersburg - Karelia

8 days / 7 nights





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DAY 1: Arrival to Saint Petersburg. Transfer to the hotel

- Welcome to the royal Saint Petersburg. With a population of 6 million people, Saint Petersburg is the second largest city in Russia. It was founded in 1703 by the Tsar Peter the Great, the country's greatest reformer who opened Russia to Europe. It was also the capital of the Russian Empire from 1712 till 1918. You can see and feel the heritage of Russia's historical monarchy in its streets, parks, monuments, museums and citizens.
- Upon the Arrival to Saint Petersburg, you will be met by the guide and have a welcome lunch at the Georgian restaurant. After the lunch, you will have a panoramic driving tour around the city
- Afterwards, you will be transferred to the hotel for checking in. The rest of the day is free. Tonight, you might plan to head out on the town or enjoy a Christmas hot drink in a bar or café or at our hotel. During the journey you can choose our optional tours like "Folklore Show at Nikolaevsky Palace" or a night at the Russian Ballet.



DAY 2: Hermitage Museum and Peter and Paul Fortress visit

- After the breakfast we take you to the Hermitage Museum in Winter Palace. It houses one of the biggest and best art collections on earth.
- Then, we will visit Peter & Paul Fortress and the Peter & Paul Cathedral, which houses the tombs of the Romanov monarchs. The Peter and Paul Fortress is the original citadel of St. Petersburg, Russia, founded by Peter the Great in 1703 and built to Domenico Trezzini's designs from 1706 to 1740. In the early 1920s, it was still used as a prison and execution ground by the Soviet government.
- Afternoon is free for you to further explore. Most of the city sights are dotted along and just off the main street - Nevsky Prospekt. It's an easy city to find your bearings and get around. St Petersburg has a spirited restaurants, bars and jazz clubs.



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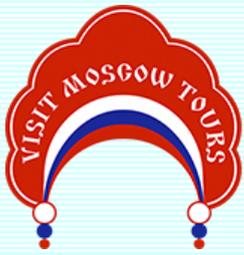
DAY 3: Visit to the Cathedral of Spilt Blood, Saint Isaak Cathedral. Faberge Museum visit

- Breakfast
- Today we further explore the city centre and its numerous must see places: the Cathedral of Spilt Blood and Saint Isaak Cathedral. The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood was built in 1883-1907 on the spot where the Russian Emperor Alexander II was assassinated. It holds the largest number of mosaics in Europe. It is a treasure box, gleaming with precious stones, gold and colorful mosaic mural panels which cover the walls and the dome of the Cathedral. The monumental building of Saint Isaac's Cathedral was built in 1818-1858 by French architect Montferrand. There are up to 600 pieces of art inside the building including paintings, sculptures and icons.
- This day you will also visit the Museum of Faberge. It contains more than 4,000 works of decorative applied and fine arts, including gold and silver items, paintings, porcelain and bronze. A highlight of the museum's collection is the group of nine Imperial Easter eggs created by Fabergé for the last two Russian Tsars.
- This afternoon, you have a choice to be transferred back to the hotel or stay in the city centre and have a lunch, you might visit Yusupov Palace or plan a shopping at Nevsky Prospect.



DAY 4: Visit Pushkin. Catherine Palace and the Garden. Amber room

- Breakfast
- The day is devoted to Pushkin and Catherine Palace. It takes 1 hour to reach this place from Saint Petersburg. Upon the arrival in Pushkin, you will have an inside tour of the Catherine Palace, and you will visit the famous Amber Room. This room was built in 1716 as a gift to Peter I from the King of Prussia



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Frederick William I. The King of Prussia wanted to celebrate peace between his state and Russia and to cement their alliance against Sweden by making such a magnificent gift. The panels of the Amber Room are made from several tons of amber.

- We travel back to Saint Petersburg and leave you in the city centre
- At 11 p.m. you collect your luggage from the clock room of the hotel. We travel to Karelia this night by a comfortable train where you can have a sleep. Early in the morning we will arrive to the land of forests.



DAY 5: Transfer to Petrozavodsk, city tour. Transfer to Kizhi island, evening excursion around the island

- Arrival to Petrozavodsk early in the morning.
- Breakfast at the café
- City tour. Literally Petrozavodsk means "Peter's Factory". It was founded by Peter the Great in 1703 for needs related to the building of St. Petersburg. Photo stop near the monument to Peter the Great.
- Transfer to Kizhi Island by hydrofoil (1 hour 15 minutes). You will fly through the windy Onega on hydrofoils, barely touching the water. You will admire the embankment moving away from the ship. You will see gulls, endless expanse of water, Islands and forests. After a little rest onboard, you will be happy to step on the land, where you will find interesting discoveries and just have a big rest rest after crowd cities.
- Upon the arrival to Kizhi island, you will meet your guide.
- Transfer to the guesthouse Kizhskaya Blagodat by boat (10 minutes). Kizhskaya Blagodat is a cozy family run guesthouse situated on the mainland right opposite Kizhi Island. The owner of the guesthouse is the son of the head carpenter, who restored the church of the Transfiguration in the Soviet time. You will be pleasantly surprised with the tranquility of the place as well as with the hospitality of its hosts. Accommodation in twin rooms (WC and shower in every room)
- Lunch
- Excursion by boat to the ancient wooden chapels around Kizhi Island that form the famous «Kizhi Necklace». Return to the guesthouse.
- Free time. In Russia we have a tradition to take a hot sauna. In the guest house you will have an opportunity to take a sauna (optional)
- Dinner.



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DAY 6: Kizhi Open-Air museum of wooden architecture. Transfer to Petrozavodsk by hydrofoil. Train to Saint Petersburg

- Breakfast.
- Transfer to Kizhi Island by boat (10 minutes).
- Excursion in the Kizhi Open-Air Museum of Wooden Architecture. Kizhi is one of the first open-air museums and one of the most popular tourist attractions in Russia. The pearl of the museum is its world-known wooden church ensemble which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1990.
- Lunch on Kizhi Island.
- Transfer to the northern part of Kizhi Island. Excursion in the carpenter's centre, where you will see how the main church of Kizhi Island is being restored.
- On the way back to the pier we will stop near the highest point of the island to enjoy a breathtaking panorama of the Onego Lake and Kizhi.
- Free time.
- This afternoon you take your luggage at the clock room of the guest house and have a Transfer to Petrozavodsk by hydrofoil (1 hour 15 minutes).
- Arrival in Petrozavodsk. Transfer to the railway station. We are travelling back to Saint Petersburg. Overnight in the train.



DAY 7: Free day in Saint Petersburg Petersburg

- The guide will meet you early in the morning at the train station and will take you to the café for breakfast
- Free programme with the guide and car upon your request.



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- Transfer to the hotel. Check in. Today is the last day in the royal city. We recommend to finish your journey by going to the ballet or opera in one of Opera House of Saint Petersburg. (optional)



DAY 8: Transfer to the airport

- Breakfast
- Transfer to the airport. Hope you enjoyed your Russian trip. You are always welcome to our country to open new pages of our history, culture, life style, hundreds of wonderful Russian cities and activities are waiting for your attention.



(COME BACK SOON)

