

# All the colours of Russia





# TARI TOUR

**We will make your trip comfortable, safe and exciting.**

TARI TOUR invites You to explore Russia with its picturesque nature, fascinating history, rich culture, admirable cities and hospitable people.

We have designed this booklet with samples of tours to introduce Russia's most attractive travel destinations: the «heart of Russia» — Moscow, brilliant Western-like Saint Petersburg, modern Sochi, charming towns of the Golden and Silver Rings of Russia, fascinating Karelia, magnificent Siberia and Far East.

**Planning Your trip to Russia, contact us for the travel arrangements:**

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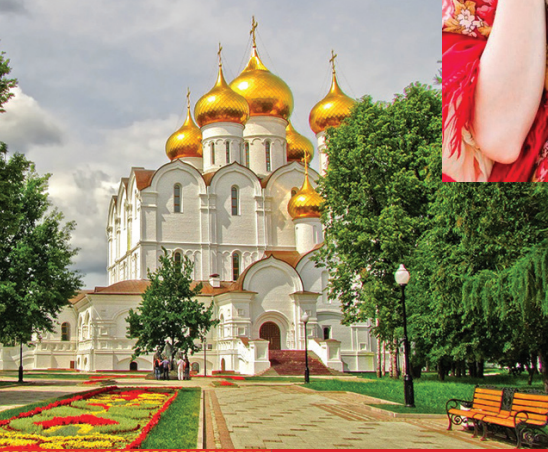
St.Petersburg office: [tarispb@taritour.spb.ru](mailto:tarispb@taritour.spb.ru); +7 (812) 324-71-12

TARI TOUR offers group and individual, excursion trips in Russia, CIS countries and Baltic States: bus and railway tours, tours for youth, congress and educational tourism; specializes in river cruises, shore excursions, religious and pilgrim programs, ecological, rural and adventure tourism, organizes special tours for seniors.

TARI TOUR, is the winner of prizes «Leaders of tour industry», «Guiding star», also has other numerous awards and gratitude of the Government of Russia and Moscow government. In 2013 TARI TOUR has been recognized by the Moscow government as the best Incoming company of the year. In 2015 Marina Levchenko — CEO of Tari Group, has been named as, the winner of the award «Woman — Director of the Year».

**Join us on the venturous journey to Russia and bring home bright emotions, unforgettable impressions, and colorful pictures!**





# Russia

With its area of 17 million sq. km., Russia is known as the largest country in the world. It takes a week by rail or 10 hours by air to cross Russia from its western frontier to the Pacific Ocean, flying over the tundra, taiga, steppes and deserts, rivers, forests and towering mountains. The nature of Russia is striking and unique. The most full-flowing river in Europe — **Volga**, the deepest fresh water lake — **Baikal**, as well as the highest peak **Elbrus** in the Caucasus are all situated in Russia. Russia is the motherland of such gifted writers as **Tolstoy**, **Dostoevsky** and **Chekhov**. The five Russians — Bunin, Sholokhov, Pasternak, Solzhenitsyn and Brodsky — were awarded Noble prize in literature. The music by Russian composers **Tchaikovsky**, Rakhmaninov, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, S hostakovich and Shnitke is known all over the world. Malevich and Kandinsky, representatives of Russian Avant garde, have innovated the art of painting. Russian classical ballet is famous all over the world. Don't miss this unique opportunity to visit this immeasurably vast and beautiful country!



# Moscow

**Moscow — the capital of Russia** — is the largest megapolis in the country, actively developing cultural, business, economic and political centre. The first reference to Moscow was found in an old Russian manuscript dated back to the year 1147, when it was an obscure town in a small province. From that date onwards, Moscow started to grow and over following centuries became the major city of Russia with the population of about 12 000 000 people and the area of 2500 sq. km.

**Moscow has plenty of museums and art galleries, has its unique historic sites, numerous restaurants** to different tastes. Apart from the busy centre, in the suburbs there are tree-shadowed parks and several country estates, formerly owned by Russian Tsars and nobility.

The experience of getting to know this beautiful city can be very much rewarding, if you only take the time and explore it with care and curiosity.

We invite you to visit the heart of Russia — **Red Square and St. Basil's Cathedral**, adore **Christ the Saviour Cathedral**, wander the **Arbat street**, travel through **Moscow metro**, take a city panorama picture from the **Sparrow Hills** and do not miss the following must-see sights.



■ **THE KREMLIN** The Moscow Kremlin is the former residence of Russian Tsars and now the residence of the president of the Russian Federation. No doubt the Kremlin and Red Square are the most important sights and at the same time symbols of the whole Russia. Enter the Kremlin grounds to see palaces, cathedrals, the Bell Tower of Ivan the Great and the Tsar Bell.

### ■ **ARMOURY CHAMBER**

Kremlin Armoury is housed in a mid-19th century building inside the Kremlin. The Armoury Chamber displays a wide variety of items from the tsars' treasury, including ancient state regalia, ceremonial dress and the largest collection of gold and silver jewels made by Russian craftsmen.



### ■ **ST BASIL'S CATHEDRAL**

With its colourful onion-shaped domes, St. Basil's Cathedral may be one of the most iconic sights in Moscow, if not in all of Russia. The cathedral was erected to celebrate the capture of Kazan by Ivan the Terrible. The side churches were designed to represent major events in Russian spiritual life in the second half of the 16th century.

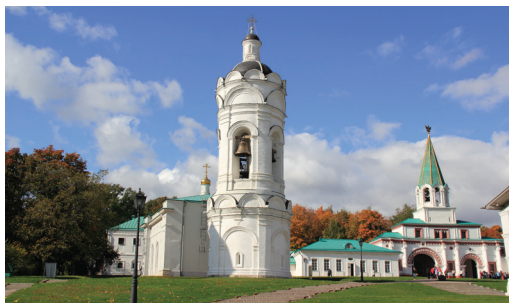
### ■ **THE STATE TRETYAKOV GALLERY**

It is a world known museum, which contains more than 130 000 works of painting, sculpture and graphics of Russian artists. The current exposition presents the ancient Russian icons of the 12th to 17th centuries as well as paintings, drawings & sculptures of the 18th to 19th centuries along with the Russian Avant garde school among the items.

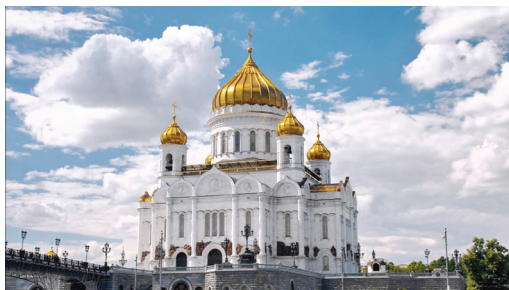


### ■ **THE PUSHKIN STATE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

The collection of the museum consists of about 5000 paintings, 35000 drawings and engravings, as well as 100000 coins and medals. The exposition of the museum offers an opportunity to get acquainted with the development of the world art from prehistoric period till present. Masterpieces by Botticelli, Monet, Cezanne, Van Godh, Mattise and Picasso are also displayed here.



■ **THE NOVODEVICHY CONVENT** was founded at the beginning of the 16th century. In the oldest stone building, the **Smolensk Cathedral**, you can see its 16th century **frescoes** and fantastic icon display, made by the greatest tsars' masters of that time. On the convent's grounds there are graves of the tsars' relatives, members of boyars families, participants of Napoleonic War of 1812, famous writers and historians.

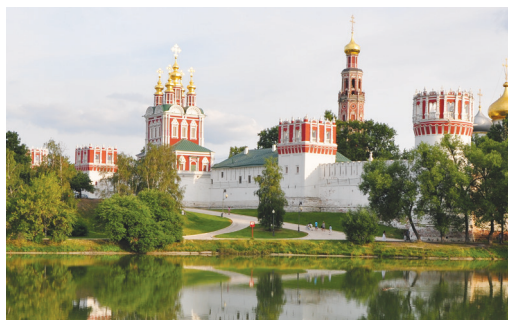


■ **TSARYTSINO OPEN AIR MUSEUM** is situated in the palace ensemble of late XVIII century intended for the residence of the Empress Catherine II near Moscow. This biggest **architectural ensemble**, **built in the style of gothic revival**, united the features of the Moscow Kremlin, old Russian monasteries, West European Middle Ages and Renaissance.



### ■ **KOLOMENSKOYE**

Former Russian Tsars' country estate consists of the masterpieces of **old-russian architecture**. Among other picturesque churches, dating from 17th century, there rises the Kolomenskoye's loveliest structure — **the Ascension Church**.



■ **CHRIST THE SAVIOR CATHEDRAL** was consecrated in 1883, but its life was short, as the Soviets destroyed it in 1931. In the mid 1990's the Russian Orthodox Church decided to rebuild the cathedral and construction began in 1994. It is **the tallest Orthodox church in the world** and may accommodate about 10,000 church-goers. The highlight for visitors is undoubtedly the panoramic view from a **40-meter-high observation platform** inside the bell tower.



### ■ **KREMLIN IN IZMAILOVO**

Izmailovo Kremlin was created according to the drafts and engravings of Tsar's Palace of XVI-XVII centuries. This **cultural-entertainment complex**, occupies the territory of 17 hectares and includes Russian Yard — a copy of traditional wooden settlement with churches and houses, traditional crafts workshops, open air souvenir market.



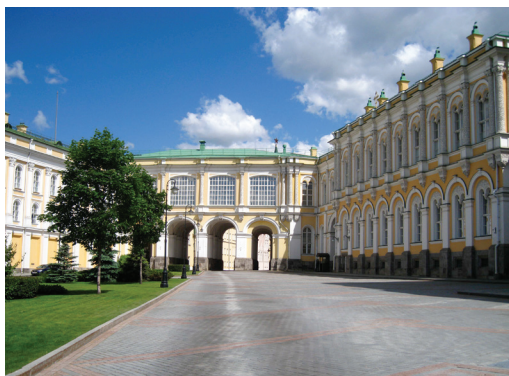
# GRAND MOSCOW TOUR



## DAY 1. City tour. Red Square. St.Basil's

Lets start our journey with the panoramic city tour, which gives us a chance to adore all the splendour of the city. We will see the main cultural and historic sites of Moscow: the Kremlin embankment, The Cathedral of Christ the Savior, the Novodevichy Convent, the Sparrow Hills, the Moscow State University, Poklonnaya Hill, Pushkin Square, Tverskaya Street and Manezhnaya Square.

After lunch we will take a walking tour along the Red Square to admire the charming Kazan Cathedral, the Kremlin Walls and the famous Ruby Stars on the Kremlin Towers, legendary Lenin Mausoleum and colorful St. Basil Cathedral, which we will visit at the end of our excursion day.



## DAY 2. Kremlin. Armoury chamber. Pushkin Museum

This is the most exciting day, as we are visiting the heart of the city and the whole Russia — the Moscow Kremlin — the splendid historic and architectural ensemble. During the excursion to Kremlin grounds you will see the gala squares and ancient palaces. You will visit one of the magnificent golden-domed cathedrals.

Then the guide will lead you to one of the most impressive museum — the Armoury chamber, the treasure house with incredible jewellery collection.

After lunch we will continue our full day tour in the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts to see one of the richest collection of original works of foreign art.



## DAY 3. Izmailovo Kremlin. Metro

We invite you to the Kremlin in Izmailovo — the recreation of the Tsar's estate of 16-17 centuries. The white-stone palace and wooden palaces, the Cathedral of the Intercession, surrounded by the walls and colored towers, create an illusion that you find yourself in medieval Russian city.

We will go to the Arbat street, after the curious tour in Moscow metro, the stations of which resemble palace rooms. Leisurely walk along Arbat street with its cozy cafes, light shop windows, street painters and artists will help you to feel that, you are falling in love with this city.



# Saint-Petersburg

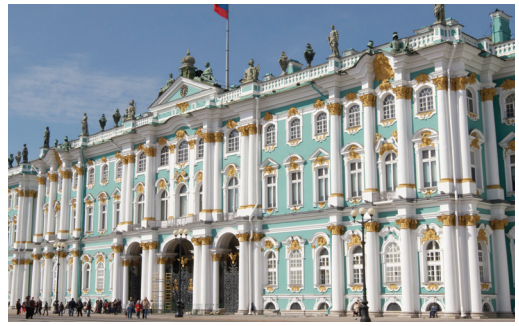
The city on the Neva River, glorified by a lot of poets and immortalized by famous artists, attracts tourists not only by its numerous palaces, cathedrals, museums and theatres but also by its unique atmosphere generated by the wonderful pattern of rivers, canals and parks.

There are more than 70 rivers and canals in the city with around 400 bridges across them. The looming silhouettes of the bridges, the granite embankments, the 18th and 19th century palaces and parks on the banks of the Neva and canals, the domes and spires of churches and cathedrals — all this contributes to the unique appearance of the «**Venice of the North**», one of the world's most beautiful cities. The leading European and Russian architects created a great number of splendid architectural masterpieces: **the Winter Palace, St. Isaac's Cathedral, Peter and Paul Fortress, Kazan Cathedral, Saviour on the Spilled Blood Cathedral and many others.**

Well-developing tourist infrastructure makes Saint Petersburg an attractive travel destination for leisure and business travellers.



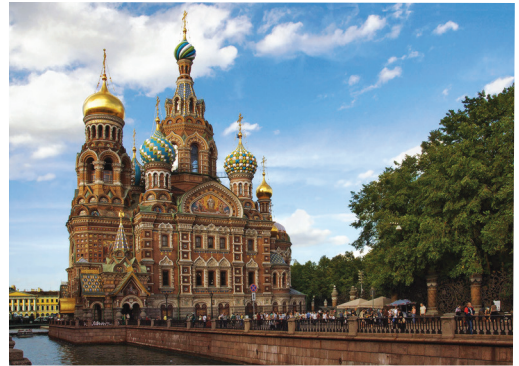
■ **THE STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM** is one of the largest museums in the world. The museum collection is displayed in five historical buildings (the Winter Palace, the former tsars' residence, the Small Hermitage, the Old Hermitage, the New Hermitage and the Hermitage Theatre). **About 3 million art items from prehistoric till modern times** are stored in the museum.



■ **THE STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM** has one of the largest collections of Russian art. There are more than 400000 paintings, sculptures, objects of applied and folk art. The museum displays works of such famous painters as Vrubel, Repin, Serov, Aivazovsky, Kandinsky, Malevich, Korovin.

### ■ **THE SAVIOUR ON THE SPILLED BLOOD CHURCH**

The cathedral was built in memory of the Russian tsar Alexander II in Pseudo-Russian Style. **Mosaics, designed by famous Russian painters Vasnetsov, Nesterov, Koshelev, Ryabushkin** dominate the interior and the exterior decoration and cover over 7500 sqm.

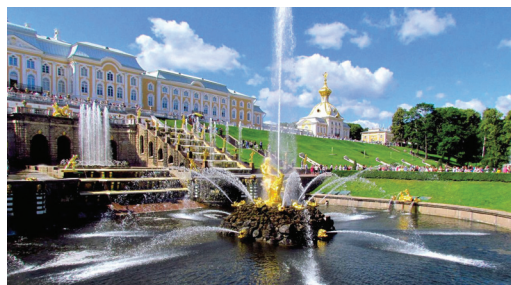


■ **THE PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS** — the oldest construction of the city. The Fortress Museum includes: **the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul** with the tomb of Peter the Great and other Russian tsars, the prison of the Trubetsky Bastion and various temporary exhibitions.



■ **ST. ISAAC'S CATHEDRAL** — the most magnificent church of St. Petersburg may house 10000 people. The huge gilded dome of St. Isaac's Cathedral (26 metres in diameter) raises above the city centre. From the colonnade of the dome one can admire the splendid panorama of the city.

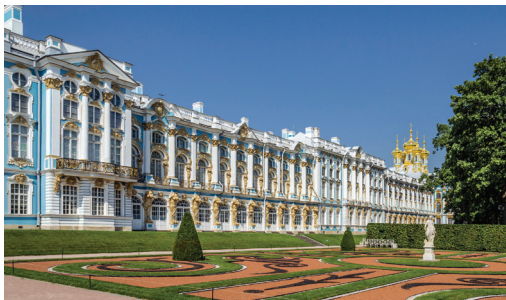
■ **KAZAN CATHEDRAL** is the main cathedral of the city. One of the sides of this cross-shaped building faces Nevsky Prospekt, and joins a colonnade of Corinthian columns. The revived iconostasis includes the miracle-making icon of Kazan Mother of God.



■ **PETERHOF** — the palace and park ensemble — a former summer residence of Peter the Great. Hundreds of fountains, ornamental lawns of parterres, golden statues in the Lower Park and the Upper Garden are real masterpieces that impress everybody, who comes here. Except for the Grand Palace with its 300-meters suite of rooms there are 20 museums with permanent and temporary exhibitions in Peterhof Complex.

### ■ **PUSHKIN/TSARSKOYE SELO**

The museum complex includes the Catherine Palace, Alexander Palace and parks. This palace and park ensemble of 18th–19th centuries served as a royal residence. One of the most famous rooms of the Catherine palace — the Amber Room — attracts thousands of visitors.



■ **PAVLOVSK** — the palace and park complex is an outstanding monument of Classicism of the second half of the 18th century. Everything is designed to amaze the visitor: the unique style of decoration of every room, the collection of art: paintings, tapestries, vases, sculptures, furniture, silk fabrics, bronzed articles.

# NEVA SYMPHONY TOUR



## DAY 1. St.Petersburg city sightseeing tour

St.Petersburg is the city which is only over 300 years old, but which has witnessed many historic events. Founded by Peter the Great in 1703 on the marshy lands, it became one of the world's architectural masterpieces. The city still bears the odour of splendour of the Imperial capital, which you can sense during the city sightseeing tour. You will drive along Nevsky prospect and Neva embankments, you will see the splendid Winter palace, the Admiralty, St.Isaac's Cathedral, the Church on the Spilled Blood, Smolny Cathedral. You will visit the Peter and Paul Fortress and Kazan Cathedral.



## DAY 2. The Hermitage museum

This day you will enjoy a visit to the State Hermitage Museum, located in the Winter Palace — former residence of Russian Tsars — to see one of the world's greatest art collections, including paintings of such celebrated masters as Leonardo Da Vinci, Rembrandt, Titian, Rafael. After guided tour in the museum you will have free time to explore the treasures on your own.

## DAY 3. Pushkin and Peterhof

This day we will spend away from the city center, visiting the former Tsar's summer residences in the suburbs of St.Petersburg.

In the morning we will go to Pushkin/Tsarskoe selo to visit the pearl of Russian Baroque — Catherine palace. The luxury of the golden enfilade of the state rooms and famous Amber room will take your breath away.

After lunch we will move to Peterhof, located at the coast of the Baltic Sea, to admire the fabulous Upper and Lower gardens and fountains of former Peter the Great's summer residence.





# Sochi

Sochi is called the «summer capital» of Russia. A holiday season lasts here from the beginning of May till the end of October. The lush subtropical vegetation, soft climate, **warm Black Sea**, unique healing springs, waterfalls, beautiful mountain landscapes and picturesque parks make it attractive for holidaymakers and tourists from all over the world.

In 2014 **Sochi hosted XXII Winter Olympic Games** which changed the city forever. Quiet resort town of Sochi transformed into a powerful tourist center with modern sport complexes and comfortable hotels.

At the distance of 40 km from Sochi there is a **marvellous mountainous country Krasnaya Polyana**. It's called Russian Switzerland. Krasnaya Polyana Resort is located at the height of 550 m above sea level.

The unique combination of mountains, glaciers, lakes, and rivers, running down to the Black Sea, gives extraordinary beauty and charm to this place.

There are complexes of mountain hotels and ski lodges in Krasnaya Polyana provided with all modern facilities, and a cableway of more than 5 km long, delivering tourists to the snow-covered steep slopes at height of 2238 m above sea level. Here one can take up almost any kind of active tourism: mountain skiing and snowboarding, canyoning and rock-climbing, gliding, horse riding, rafting, mountain bike riding, etc.



## DAY 1. Olympic Park, Roza Khutor

Today you will see the capital of Olympic Games 2014, where the competitions in hockey, speed skating, short track, figure skating, curling took place.

You will see the Olympic Park and the Olympic Village, the Media Center, as well as the Ice Arena, Fisht Olympic stadium, Big Ice Palace, Olympic Cauldron. You will finish the 1st day in the mountains. Enjoy mountain landscapes in Krasnaya Polyana, in Roza Khutor resort — the youngest, but the best and largest ski resort in Russia.



## DAY 2. Apiari, Trout Farm, Rosa Peak

In the morning you will visit local apiary and trout farm. At a local apiary you will see the way of life of beekeepers, have tea and taste different kinds of local honey.

At the trout farm, (the only trout farm in Russia), you will see the trout ponds, will feed the fish or even fish yourself.

After tasting the fish, you take Alpika Service cable car to the olympic paradize, to the point of 780 m. You will have an excursion to the unique Olympic Bobsleigh Track.

Ascent by cable car of «Roza Khutor» service to highest point of the area 2320m — Roza Peak. Fouchette at the top with majestic views of Main Caucasus Ridge and Black Sea.



## DAY 3. Sochi Sightseeing tour, Stalin's Dacha

You will have the panoramic city tour, which feature main highlights of the city: the marine station «Morvokzal», The Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel, balneological complex Macesta, «Riviera» park and other sights of Sochi.

You will visit Stalin's Dacha, the former Soviet Summer Residence. Few real-life relics left in Sochi from the communist times. 50 acres of the territory lush in varies types of plants. All rooms of Stalin's Dacha retained the original interior.

You will return to Roza Khutor by train, enjoy 40 minutes trip by train Lastochka, riding via several tunnels along nice valley of river Mzymta.





# The Golden Ring

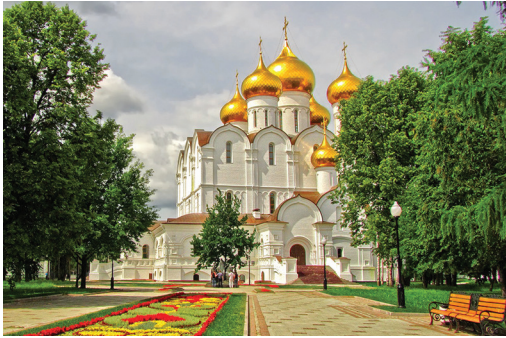
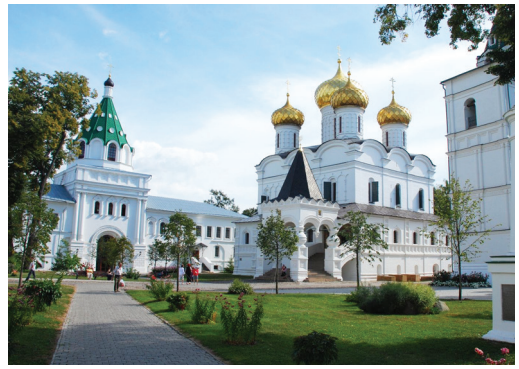
**THE GOLDEN RING OF RUSSIA** could be defined as a group of small ancient Russian towns which preserved their unique historical and cultural heritage. It is one of the most popular and visited itineraries among Russian provinces. It has such a name because all towns build a symbolic circle. Each town is remarkable for its rich history and attractions, and together they constitute the treasury of Russian culture, a visual encyclopaedia of ancient architecture.

The Golden Ring of Russia is composed of 8 small main ancient towns around Moscow: **Vladimir-Suzdal-Ivanovo-Kostroma-Yaroslavl-Rostov Veliky-Peresslavl Zalessky-Sergiev Posad**. The rest of towns such as Plyos, Uglich, Myshkin, etc. have not been officially renowned for being a part of Golden Ring.

Unique architectural monuments, works of art, and beautiful nature attract thousands of local and foreign tourists every year. It is a chance to catch the spirit of Medieval Rus'.

■ **KOSTROMA** is the northern town of the Golden Ring. It is located 372 km to the north-east from Moscow, where the Kostroma River flows into Volga. For the first time the Town of Kostroma was mentioned in the Russian chronicals in 1252, though it was founded a bit earlier.

The impressive **Ipatiev Monastery** was constructed in the picturesque place in the estuary of the Kostroma and the Volga rivers. Kostroma is the only town of the country in which the original layout of the town centre is preserved.



■ **YAROSLAVL** is located on the Volga river, 282 km from Moscow. According to the legend, Prince Yaroslav the Wise founded a fortress here in 1010 after he had defeated a huge bear on this spot. The rampant bear is depicted on the coat of arms of the city.

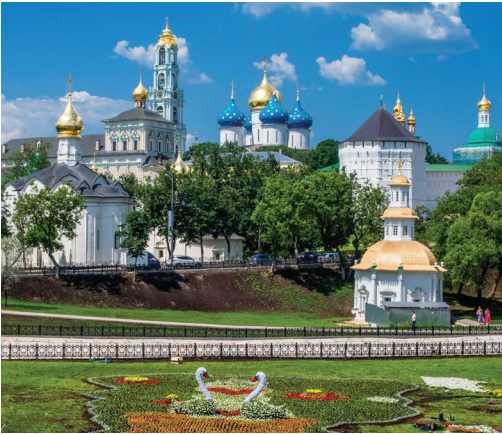
Owing to the location at the intersection of important trade routes, Yaroslavl became one of the most important trade centres of Russia. On the territory of the **Saviour's Monastery**, founded in the 12th century, the oldest building of the city — the **Transfiguration Cathedral** — is situated. **Elia's the Prophet Church** was constructed in 1647-1650. Its iconostasis is a masterpiece of Russian Baroque style.

■ **ROSTOV VELIKY** is located on the picturesque bank of Nero Lake, approximately 200 km from Moscow. Founded in 862, Rostov is older than Moscow. It was an important political, economic, cultural and religious centre of Russia at that time.

The **Assumption Cathedral**, built in the 16th century, is the most important church of the city. The cathedral architecturally harmonises with the walls and the towers of the **Rostov Kremlin**.

Rostov Veliky is famous for its enamels — finifts. It is a glass fused in a particular way and coloured with oxides of metals in different colours.





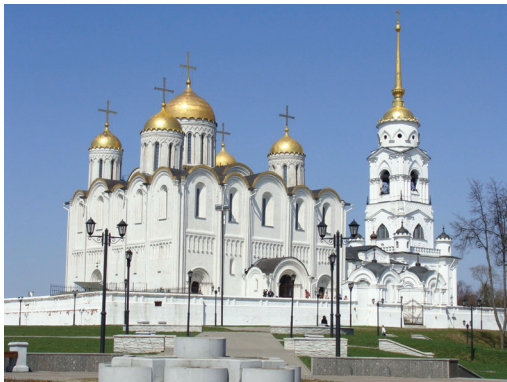
■ **SERGIEV POSAD** is situated 70 km to the north-east from Moscow. It was named in honour of Sergius Radonezhsky, the great saint of Russian land. His relics are kept in the **Trinity-Sergius Lavra**. The heart of the monastery is the Assumption Cathedral. Built in 1422, the Trinity Cathedral is the oldest edifice of the monastery, some of its frescoes were painted by Andrey Rublev, the greatest icon painter of medieval Russia. These magnificent cathedrals as well as St.Sergius' Church, the Metropolitan Palace, Chapel at the Well, a refectory, a treasury and gate-churches form one of the greatest Russian monastery.

■ **VLADIMIR** is located 190 km to the north-east from Moscow on the Klyazma River. Founded in 1108 by Prince Vladimir Svyatoslavich, the town acquired more and more significance and became the capital of Great Vladimir-Suzdal Principality. The unique **Assumption Cathedral** is a symbol of the city. It was built in 1158-1160 as the residence of the bishop and the prince. For many centuries this structure with white walls and five domes served as a model for many other Orthodox churches including cathedrals of the Moscow Kremlin. The other highlights of Vladimir are the **Golden Gate** and **Dmitrievsky Cathedral** which was built in 1194.



■ **SUZDAL** — the unique town-museum is located in 220 km to the north-east from Moscow in the typical Russian landscape. With more than 300 historic buildings, Suzdal is the best preserved ancient Russian town. For the first time the town name was mentioned in a manuscript in 1024. There are two largest cloisters in Suzdal: **Spaso-Efimiev Monastery and Intercession (Pokrovsky) Convent**. Both cloisters are well preserved. The oldest part of the town is the **Kremlin with the Nativity Cathedral**, constructed in the 13th century. Taking a walk about the town one can marvel numerous buildings of the 18-19th centuries.





## DAY 1. Sergiev Pasad, Vladimir

You start your journey from Moscow and go to Zagorsk (Sergiev Pasad) by a comfortable coach. After the orientation city tour you will have an excursion, given by the monks, to St.Sergiy-Trinity Lavra — the sacred monastery founded by Sergiy Radonezhsky at the times of Ivan the Terrible. Next town to visit is Vladimir. Here you will have a city tour, and a photo stop at the Cathedral of St. Demetrius and the Golden Gates. Admire the miraculous frescoes by the icon-painter Andrei Rublyov when visiting the Cathedral of the Assumption. After that transfer to quite and peaceful Suzdal.



## DAY 2. Suzdal

In Suzdal you will visit the Kremlin with Cathedral of the Nativity, the Museum of Wooden Architecture, have an excursion in Saint Euthymius Monastery. The local family will invite you to their private house to have lunch with them and taste Russian homemade dishes, pickles, famous local beverage Medovukha (drink made of honey). Departure to Kostroma, the town on the banks of the Great Russian Volga river.



## DAY 3. Kostroma. Yaroslavl

After the sightseeing tour around the town you will visit to Church on Debr, Bogoyavlensky Monastery, Ipatiy Monastery with Trinity Cathedral, will enjoy a boat trip along the Volga river. Then depart to Yaroslavl to have a panoramic city tour there.

## DAY 4. Yaroslavl, Rostov Velikiy

Let's continue our exploration of Yaroslavl. You will see the Spaso-Preobrazhensky Monastery and the Church of Ilya the Prophet. Continue the trip to Rostov-The-Great on the lake Nero where one of the oldest Kremlin is located. Russian craftsmen put inexhaustible fantasy and skill into every Rostov's Kremlin building and all of them will delight you with its beauty. In the evening we «close the Ring» and return to Moscow.



# The north-west of Russia

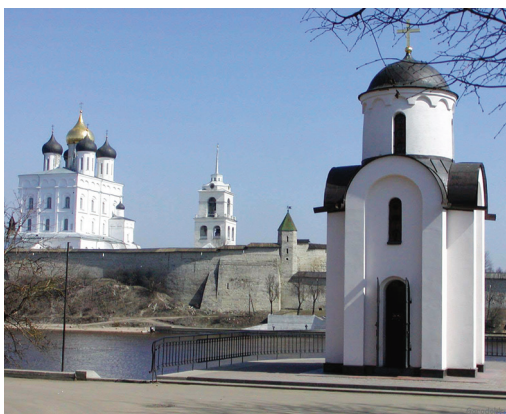
■ **VELIKY NOVGOROD** one of the oldest towns in Russia, is located in the place where the Volkhov River flows out of Ilmen Lake. Novgorod appeared to be a political centre of Slavic and Finnish tribes in the 9th century. For a long time Novgorod had been a political centre that controlled the Russian territory from the Baltic and Finland in the west to the northern Urals in the east. It was one of the largest trade centres at the intersection of the trade routes between the Baltic and the Volga.

Here one can see a **unique masterpieces of the Old Russian architecture of the 11-17th centuries**. Many of them are situated in the Novgorod Kremlin erected in 1044. The oldest stone building of Russia is St. Sophia's Cathedral (the Holy Wisdom of God). The Granovitaya Chamber, a rare monument of Gothic architecture, which was built in 1433 with the help of German craftsmen, and the Sophia Belfry (1439) with bells of the 16-17th centuries, require special attention. To the south of Novgorod, on the left bank of the Volkhov, the Yuriev Monastery with the magnificent George's Cathedral is situated. Near the monastery, the open-air Vitoslavit-sy Museum of wooden structures from Novgorod Region is a nice place to visit.



■ **PSKOV** is a town-museum in the open air. The western location influenced the whole history of the town. It was a political and cultural centre of Western Russia, as well as the most important trading centre with European countries.

Here, you will also find unique masterpieces of architecture such as the **Transfiguration Cathedral** with frescoes of the 12th century in the **Mironezhsky Monastery**, the Pskovian Kremlin, which is crowned by the **Trinity Cathedral**, and numerous churches in the marvellous Pskovian architectural style. The school of fresco and icon painting that preserved and developed the traditions of Byzantine culture appeared in Pskov. Icons of the 14-16th centuries, the frescoes of the Town of Dovmont and the Metelovskaya Assumption Church are excellent examples of it.



■ **IZBORSK** For the first time Izborsk was mentioned in the chronicles in 862, which means that the town is older than Moscow and Pskov. Marvellous nature and Old Russian architecture are in harmony combined here with lakes, rivers, bubbling brooks and numerous chapels. You will see here peculiarly ringing **springs-waterfalls**, so-called Slovenian Springs, the **Izborsk Fortress**, the Izborsk-Malsk Valley, the ruins of the Malsk Monastery and the large memorial stone cross, that is believed to mark the grave of the legendary king Truvor.

■ **PECHERY** is one of the oldest towns of Pskovian Area. The charming appearance of the town is determined by a picturesque valley with karst caves and a monastery complex of the 15-20th centuries. The ancient **Pskovo-Pechersky Monastery**, which was previously built in caves is situated here. The golden age of the monastery fell on the 16th century. At that period it acquired a great significance not only as a spiritual, but also as a cultural centre. Today the monastery consists of 11 churches; 3 of them are situated in caves. The fortress walls and the belfry with old bells are also noteworthy.





## **DAY 1. City sightseeing tour. Novgorod Kremlin, Yaroslav's Court**

Today you will explore Veliky Novgorod — the ancient Russian town which dates back to the 9th century.

You will have a chance to see the best preserved churches from the 11th century, representing original features of Russian architecture.

You will go inside the Novgorod Kremlin walls, also known as the Detinet, see the Bronze monument to the Millennium of Russia, representing the most important figures of the country's history.

You will go inside St. Sophia's Cathedral, the functioning Orthodox church with remarkable frescoes and icons.

Walking across the Volkhov River, on its right bank, you will visit Yaroslav's Court, the former main square of Novgorod, the political and trade centre of the town from 11th up to 15th centuries. The St. Nicholas Cathedral and the Church of St. Procopius are situated here.



## **DAY 2. Museum of Wooden Architecture and Yuriev Monastery**

We will travel along the Volkhov River to visit The St. George's (Yuriev) Monastery. You will see the Church of the Exaltation of the Cross in the north-eastern corner of the monastery, with five blue domes and golden stars on it, built in the 18th century and visit three-domed St. George's Cathedral, built in 1119.

Driving back to the town centre we will go to the Museum of Wooden Architecture, called «Vitoslavitsy», the architectural and nature resort of Old Russian architecture.

You will visit the old forge, izbas (traditional Russian dwellings), equipped with items of peasant life, implements and a threshing-floor.





## DAY 1. Pskov city tour. The Kremlin

During the city tour you will explore the medieval churches St. Nicholas on Usokha and St. Basil on the Hill, merchant houses, the monument to Alexander Nevsky, the monument to Princess Olga and certainly the Pskov Kremlin. You will go inside the Kremlin, the mighty fortress of the Middle Ages, which has never been taken in a fight by the enemy. You will visit the Trinity Cathedral — the main temple of the Pskov region. The cathedral is the home to the miraculous icon of the Mother of God Chirskaya (XV century), which is the object of worship of many believers.

You will also visit the ancient Mirozhsky Monastery, the center of cultural life of medieval Pskov, to admire the world famous frescoes of the 12th century in the Cathedral of the Transfiguration of Christ. The Cathedral, built in the Byzantine style, differs from all ancient churches of Russia.



## DAY 2. Izborsk. Pechery

You leave Pskov for a full day tour to visit the Izborsk Fortress, the Izborsk-Malsk Valley, the Slavic Springs and the fabulous Pskovo-Pechersky Assumption Monastery.

Izborsk fortress has never been captured by enemy, though it was attacked and besieged 8 times during the period from the 14th to the 16th century.

The Izborsk-Malsk Valley is a unique landscape and a historical site with a natural phenomenon of the Slavic Springs. Thousands of visitors come to the rocky springs, as they are believed to be miraculous, bringing health, happiness and love.

Rejuvenated after the springs' visit you will drive to Pechory to visit the picturesque ensemble of the Pskovo-Pechersky Assumption Monastery — one of the largest cultural centers of ancient Russia. The monastery is also called Pskov-Caves Monastery because 3 of 11 monastery churches are located in the caves.





# Karelia

The Republic of Karelia is located in the north-western part of Russia. The capital of Karelia **Petrozavodsk** is situated on the shore of Lake Onega. Karelia is a land of blue lakes and rivers full of valuable kinds of fish, green forests, rocks and high hills. There are over 60000 lakes, 27000 rivers and 29 reservoir storages. The countryside and the climate of Karelia are influenced by the largest freshwater European reservoirs — **Lakes Onega and Ladoga** together with the salt-water body of the Arctic White Sea.

Forests cover almost 15 million hectares of the Karelia territory. About 90 percent of the forest is pine and spruce. Over 5 percent of Republic's whole area is declared **national parks and nature reserves**. Unique landscapes, peculiar flora and fauna together with great culture and history make this region more and more attractive for tourists, especially for adventure lovers.



■ **PETROZAVODSK** is the capital of Karelia. The city was founded by order of Peter I, on the bank of Onega Lake in 1703. Visit the **National Museum** to learn the history of Karelia or the **Museum of Fine Arts** to see a fantastic collection of northern icons, Enjoy Karelian music and dances performed by Kan-tele Folk Ensemble, and just walk along the embankment to admire Lake Onega.

■ **KIZHI**. The beauty of the Russian North, the pearl of Karelia in Lake Onega, is the island of Kizhi. The whole island serves as an open-air museum of wooden architecture.

The basis of the museum is the Kizhi architectural ensemble, consisting of two multi-domed churches and belfries. The main and the most impressive sight on Kizhi Island is the 20-domed **Transfiguration Church**, built in 1714 without the use of nails, only with the help of axe and chise.

The other structures were transported to the territory of the reserve from different villages in Trans-Oneghie and the whole Karelia. Among them there is the Resurrection of Lazarus Chapel — the oldest wooden building on the territory of Russia.



■ **VALAAM ARCHIPELAGO** consists of the main island, called Valaam, and fifty small ones. The island is covered with a virgin forest of pine trees and a great number of inner lakes. The main sight of Valaam is the **Saviour's Transfiguration Monastery**, founded in the first half of the 10th century by the Greek missionaries — the Reverend Sergius and Gherman.

You will never forget your motor boat tour to Valaam! During the whole tour you can admire the fascinating scenery of Russian nature, magnificent walls of old monastery, golden domes of churches, which found its reflection on canvases of Russian artists — Shishkin, Kuindzhi, and others.



# NORTHERN BEAUTY TOUR



## DAY 1. Petrozavodsk. Kizhi island

Petrozavodsk is the capital of Karelia. It stretches along the western shore of the Lake Onega for 27 km. During the city tour you will learn the history of Petrozavodsk from the foundation by Peter the Great. You will see the Round Square, the monument to Peter the Great, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, newly built modern embankment, etc. Onward you will depart for Kizhi Island by hydrofoil. During the walking tour in the Kizhi Museum, you will get acquainted with the famous church Ensemble, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, visit a farmer's house and the territory of a reconstructed village. Further you will go to the other side of Kizhi Island, where the restoration complex is located. You will have a chance to witness the unique process of restoration of the Transfiguration church.



## DAY 2. Kivach Nature Reserve

Today you leave Petrozavodsk and head to the second biggest town in Karelia.

You will visit the ancient wooden Church of Assumption. Built in 1774 the church of Assumption represents traditional Russian wooden architecture. The original 18th century icons are of a great interest.

You will go to the Kivach Nature Reserve and have picnic with shashlik and hot tea.

During excursion you will visit waterfall Kivach, nature museum, and dendrarium, where you will get acquainted with typical local flora and fauna of Karelia.







### DAY 3. Kinerma Village, Pryazha

Today you will go to the centre of Karelian culture and traditions. You will meet Nadezhda, local resident of Kinerma Village. Thanks to Nadezhda the village became a unique monument of traditional wooden architecture. She won several grants for the restoration of ancient houses, she preserves the village in a traditional Karelian style. Excursion around the village and lunch cooked in big Russian stove waits for you.



After lunch we head to Pryazha, a cozy town not far from Petrozavodsk. Upon arrival you will visit the exhibition, devoted to the history and traditions of the Karelians. Afterwards you will learn to make Karelian symbols of love, well-being and happiness. Using these symbols you will create your own pattern and decorate a blank shopping bag with the print. This bag will be a nice unusual souvenir from Karelia. While the pattern is getting dry, you will have tea with Karelian pies.

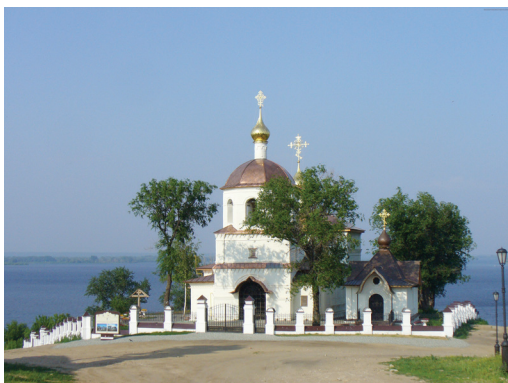




# Kazan

Kazan is a beautiful city, where geographical and cultural aspects of both Europe and Asia come together. In 2005 the city celebrated its millennium anniversary. Kazan's historical center features magnificent buildings in varied architectural styles, where mansions in modernist style coexist with Baroque monuments. The Kazan Kremlin is the central historic citadel of the city. It was built by the behest of tsar Ivan the Terrible on the ruins of the castle of Kazan khans. The architectural ensemble of the **Kazan Kremlin** is well known for its many ancient buildings, the oldest of which is the **Annunciation Cathedral**, the 16th-century Russian Orthodox church. The **Qolsharif Mosque**, erected in the 16th century and recently renovated, is another top landmark of Kazan's architectural landscape.

One of the most popular places for tourists is Bauman Street, a pedestrian area that stretches for 1.3 kilometers from the Kremlin to Tukai Square in the city center. The city's oldest street features buildings from different historic periods and is a thoroughfare with shops, cafes, restaurants and clubs.



## DAY 1. Kazan city sightseeing tour

The sightseeing tour gives the chance to get acquainted closer with sights of the thousand-year city which has united culture of the West and tradition of the East. Under the leadership of the skilled guide you will visit the Old-Tatar settlement where Tatars after a gain of Kazan by Ivan the Terrible lived. The Cloth settlement, the former industrial complex of the city based by Peter I, the Kazan Town hall, Opera and Ballet theater, Conservatory, the building of the Government and a city pearl — the Kazan Kremlin. On the territory of the Kremlin we will visit the most beautiful mosque of the city of Qolsharif, examine the Annunciation Cathedral, a falling tower of Syuyumbike, a place of burial of the Kazan khans and residences of the president of Tatarstan republic. You will have lunch at a restaurant with a master class in preparation of the Tatar national dishes, visit National Museum of the Republic of Tatarstan.

## DAY 2. Ancient city Bulgar

During this tour, you will have a remarkable chance to visit the Holy Land of once strong state Bulgaria. Here you will see monuments of architecture of the X-XI century, constructed on a place, where associates of the Prophet Mohammed were based. You will see Complex of a white mosque of Bulgarians with the largest in the world printed Koran.

## DAY 3. Raifa Bogoroditsky Monastery, Sviyazhsk island

Our tour goes through the historic center of Kazan. It offers a beautiful panorama of Kazan Kremlin and unique monument on water, the Temple of Fallen Soldiers. Then you will pass through the streets of the Admiralteyskaya settlement and go to Raifa Bogoroditsky Monastery. Here you will visit the main temples — Zhivonachalnoy Troitsy Cathedral (Holy Trinity) and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Georgian. You will continue your excursion by going to Sviyazhsk island, built by Ivan the Terrible.

You will see ancient churches, cultural and historical sites. You will also have time for visiting the complex of historical reconstruction Lazy Torzhok, and craft workshops.



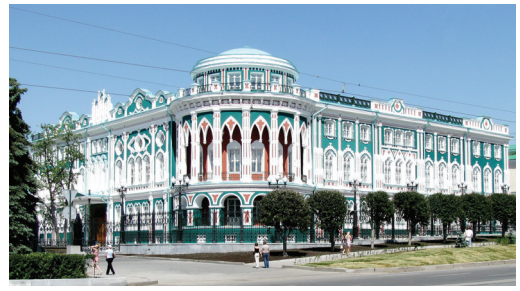
## Siberia and the Far East

Siberia is extremely varied. Division into regions can be made in a quite arbitrary way: western and eastern Siberia, Altai, Tuva and Khakasiya, the Sayan Mountains, Trans-Baikal, Yakutia, the Far North. Siberia has a total area of 13 million sq.km. Siberia is rich in gas and oil fields, gold and diamond deposits, reserves of wood; there is an abundance of fir-bearing animals, fish, and colossal reserves of the purest water. Everything is tremendous here: the Ob', the Irtysh, the Enisei, the Angara, and the Lena Rivers, the Altai and Sayan Mountain Ranges, Lake Baikal and Lake Teletskoye. The main part of the **Trans-Siberian Railway**, which was built at a turn of the 20th century and has a length of 9 289 km, runs through Siberia.

No doubt that the gem of eastern Siberia is Lake Baikal, which contains approximately a fourth of the world reserves of fresh water.

## ■ YEKATERINBURG

Yekaterinburg was founded on the eastern slope of the **Ural Mountains**, on the bank of the beautiful Iset' River, in 1723. Yekaterinburg is the capital of Ural. The city is situated on the border of two parts of the world — Europe and Asia. More than 600 historical and cultural monuments are concentrated in the city. Numerous churches and chapels make the panorama of the city very picturesque.



## ■ NOVOSIBIRSK

The city is unofficially called the capital of Eastern Siberia. Novosibirsk appeared after the construction of Trans-Siberian Railway at the end of the 19th century. The centres of the Siberian branches of Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Russian Academy of Medical Sciences are located here. There are seven theatres in the city; it is no mere chance that a depiction of one of them — the State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet — is the symbol of the city.

■ **KRASNOYARSK**, the third largest city in Siberia, lies on the Yenisei River. The most popular place of attraction for tourists visiting Krasnoyarsk is the huge **national nature reserve Stolby** (Rock Pillars). Stolby covers the area of 470 sq.km with numerous giant extraordinary shaped granite rocks up to 100 meters high. Stolby is also a major rock climbing location. Other popular showplaces in the Krasnoyarsk are **Hydroelectric Power Station** dam, the Karaulnaya Gora hill with the Paraskeva Pyatnitsa Chapel, the Intercession Cathedral, the Annunciation Cathedral, the St. Trinity Cathedral, John the Baptist Church, the new Michael the Archangel Church etc.



## ■ ULAN-UDE

Ulan-Ude, like many other Siberian cities, was founded by Russian explores in the 17th century. The city of Ulan-Ude is the centre of national and cultural development, a scientific centre, and a centre of Tibetan medicine. The Buryatsky Scientific Research Centre (RAN) with its 4 institutes is located in the city. Scientific works by Buryatsky scientists in the fields of Tibetan medicine, biology, history, geology, ecology are widely known not only in the country, but also abroad. There are 4 professional theatres in Ulan-Ude. The Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of History, the Ethnographical **Museum of the People of Trans-Baikal**, and the **Geology Museum** have rich collections.

## ■ IRKUTSK

Irkutsk is one of the oldest Russian cities in Siberia. It is the **nearest city to Lake Baikal**; one of the largest tourist centres of Russia.

The museums of Irkutsk are rightfully considered to be one of the best museums in Russia. Irkutsk is a starting point for excursions to Lake Baikal. Baikal is one of the deepest and oldest lakes in the world (about 25 million years). Baikal is home to more than 1,700 species of plants and animals, two thirds of which can be found nowhere else in the world.



## ■ KHABAROVSK

Khabarovsk is rightfully regarded as the capital of the Far East Region. The city is standing on the right bank of the Amur River near the border with China. Khabarovsk Bridge, as well as rock and monument to Count Muravyov-Amursky are depicted on the 5000 rubles banknote — at the moment it's the most valuable banknote in Russia. It is the largest industrial, transport, cultural, and scientific centre of the Far East.



## ■ THE FAR EAST

The distance between Moscow and Vladivostok is more than 9000 km and the difference in time between the Far East and Central Europe is 10 hours!

Winters here are very cold, dry and sunny, and, consequently, very beneficial for health. July, August, and September are the most favourable period to visit the Far East.

The nature of the Far East offers a lot of surprising things. There are the sea with sandy beaches and an excellent opportunity for motor-ship trips, the **virgin taiga, mountain rivers with waterfalls and rapids, caves, curative mineral water springs**. Tourism is being actively developing in this region and suits for those, who want to have adventures.



## ■ VLADIVOSTOK

Vladivostok is the largest city in Primorsky Area, and in the Russian Far East on the whole. It is the largest **seaport on the Russian Coast of the Pacific Ocean**. There are over 200 monuments in the city. The Primorsky Museum of Regional Studies named after Arsenyev, the Museum of the History of the Pacific Navy, the Museum of Oceanography stand out among the other museums because of their great collections; there is an oceanarium as well.



# TRANS-SIBERIAN GRAND JOURNEY MOSCOW - VLADIVOSTOK



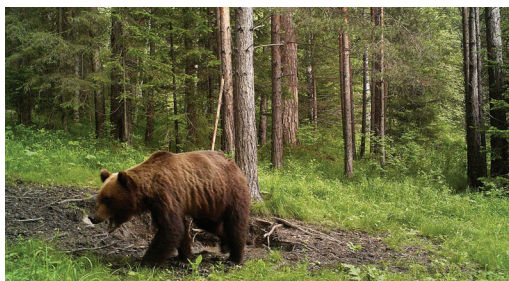
## DAY 1. Moscow

You start our journey in Moscow at Yaroslavsky Railway, where you take the train to Krasnoyarsk.

**DAY 2-3.** The next two days you spend on board the train. Enjoy fantastic views passing by your window.

## DAY 4. Krasnoyarsk. City tour. Regional museum

This day you get to know Krasnoyarsk, having the city sightseeing tour with photostops at the main tourist sites, followed by the visit to the Regional Museum — one of the biggest and oldest museums in Siberia and Far East.



## DAY 5. Krasnoyarsky Stolby. Yenissei Hydro Electro Station

You will have a walking trip along the National Park to see the National Reserve «Krasnoyarsky Stolby», the main attractions of which are cliffs of strange curved forms.

After a picnic you will visit Yenissei Hydro Electro Station. Transfer to Railway station for the overnight train to Irkutsk.



## DAY 6. On board the train. Arrival to Irkutsk in the evening

## DAY 7. Irkutsk Decembrists' Museum. Lake Baikal

You will have a sightseeing tour around Irkutsk, excursion to the Irkutsk Regional Historic Memorial Decembrists' Museum, that traces its history from December 29, 1970.

After you will departure for Baikal Lake, settlement Listvianka, have excursion in the Wooden open air museum Tailtsi.

You will have excursion to Limnological Museum (Baikal Lake museum). The unique exhibits tell about the origin and the history of the lake, its flora and fauna, geological structure, climate and tectonics of Pribaikalye. You will walk in Listvianka with a visit to a Fish bazaar.





#### **DAY 8. Lake Baikal**

You will travel along Transsiberian Railway to the settlement Slyudyanka, have excursion in Slyudyanka and then take a train by Old Railway along the shore to Port Baikal with stops for taking pictures. You will visit Locomotive museum to get acquainted with unique historical materials of Circum Baikal Railway construction, go to Listvianka by ferry and transfer to Irkuts.



#### **DAY 9. Ulan-Ude. Ethnographical museum**

You will travel to Ulan-Ude by train and have sightseeing excursion around Ulan-Ude upon arrival, have an excursion to the Ethnographical museum and see two wooden storage cabins containing hunting and fishing gear, skis, sledges, sacks, and traps.



#### **DAY 10. Ulan-Ude. Ivolginsky Datsan**

You will have an excursion to the Ivolginsky Datsan, one of the Buddhist Temples located in Buryatia. Unique samples of old Buryat art, sculptures, ritual objects are gathered and presented at the Ivolginsky Datsan. Among the monastery's treasures there is a collection of old Buddhist manuscripts, written in Tibetan language on natural silk, and a greenhouse with a sacred Bodhi tree.

You will have a transfer back to the city railway station and depart to Vladivostok.

#### **DAY 11–12–13. On board the train. Arrival to Vladivostok**



#### **DAY 14. Vladivostok. City tour. Submarine**

You will have a guided city tour to the most interesting Vladivostok attractions, including historical city center, excursion to the Memorial Submarine S-56, enjoy boat tour around Amur Bay and have excursion in Vladivostok Fortress and Fort.





## Incentive tours to Russia

Business meetings, conferences, seminars, product and service presentations combined with sightseeing and recreation, excursions to museums and galleries, theatre evenings and gala dinners give a unique chance to solve important business issues.

We can arrange classical receptions and dinners in the style of 19th century, balls and masquerades in one of the numerous Imperial palaces of Saint-Petersburg and Moscow or private concerts where famous musicians, opera singers and ballet dancers will perform.

Visiting Vladimir, Suzdal or Velikiy Novgorod can be turned into the cheerful feast. Participants may stay in traditional Russian wooden izbas (log cabins) with the original interiors of old Russian style, try traditional Russian food cooked in the izba's oven and tea made in samovar and take a steam bath in Russian banya (bathhouse).



To take a closer look at traditional Russian crafts one can visit different workshops – pottery, smithy, joiner's workshop, icon-painting workshop — and even participate in some of the processes — matryoshka (wooden dolls) painting, forging or clay molding .

Flights by supersonic crafts may suite those who love thrilling experience. We can arrange a test flight by Russian supersonic planes MIG-23, (-25, -29), SU 30 operated by professional pilots from aerodrome in town of Zhukovsky near Moscow.



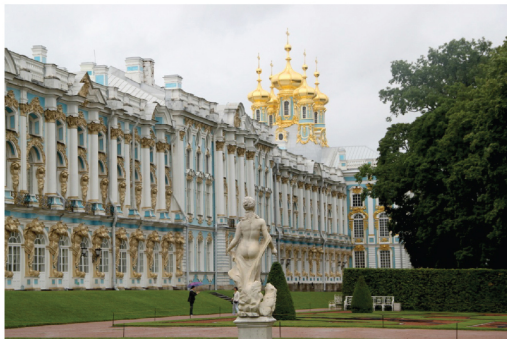
Different types of motor-ships and boats can be rented for river excursions along the historical centre of the cities or riverside recreation areas with good conditions for picnics.

Trips by helicopter or retro-train that give opportunity to admire the magnificent panorama of the cities.

Active life lovers may enjoy exciting road trips by jeeps called Russian safari, kayak trips in Karelia, or military tours' where the participants will be able to visit former soviet military sites.



Travelling to the eastern part of Russia is thrilling itself — endless expanse of taiga, rocky shores of Baikal Lake, mysterious Altai, volcanoes and geysers of Kamchatka, canyons and waterfalls of Russian North amaze by its beauty and make feel that our world is a unique and perfect creation of the Universe!



## **DAY 1. St.Petersburg. The Hermitage**

St. Petersburg will meet you with a traditional ceremony «Bread and Salt».

The marvelous Hermitage Museum with its greatest art collection is waiting for your visit.

You will have dinner with classical music at imperial interiors of «Nikolaevsky Palace».



## **DAY 2. Catherine palace. Troika riding**

This day will please you with excursion to Catherine Palace with its Amber room and Park in Pushkin.

Traditional restaurant «Podvorye» will serve an incredible lunch with Russian dishes, accompanied by folk songs. At the cooking master class learn to cook Russian pelmeni.

Driving in famous Russian Troyka you will give you an unforgettable experience.

Sapsan train will take you to Moscow.



## **DAY 3. Moscow. Kremlin. Sokolniki Park**

A panoramic city tour will continue at the Kremlin grounds and one of its Cathedrals.

Lunch will be served at one of the best restaurants of Moscow.

After lunch visit National park in Sokolniki — the place of active leisure.

«Glazunov Gallery» restaurant will open its doors to you at dinner and will offer Russian folk show.



## **DAY 4. Ballooning over Moscow. River cruise**

We offer you to experience an exciting voyage by huge balloons over Moscow! You will see a surprising view of the Russian capital from a tremendous height.

Lunch will be served at a cozy restaurant.

Raddisson River Cruise with dinner will be a nice addition to city tour from water.



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