

# Russia

## Moscow, Gold Ring, St. Petersburg

### 07 Nights / 08 Days

#### **Day 01: Arrive St. Petersburg**

Arrive St. Petersburg. You will be met by a local representative and transferred to your hotel. The city of St. Petersburg is known as the cultural treasure house of Russia and it is often referred to as an Open-Air museum. The place has lots of palaces, museums, theatres and parks. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 02: St. Petersburg - Half Day City Tour**

After buffet breakfast, we proceed for the half day city tour of St. Petersburg (3.5 hrs.). Visit the Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Nicolas Church, the Winter Palace, the Smolny Cathedral, the buildings of Senate and Sinod, the St. Issak's Cathedral and the Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan designed by world famous architects make a visit to the city unforgettable. The streets and squares of the city are ornamented by brilliant sculptures. Afternoon visit the Hermitage Museum (3.5 hrs.) which contains one of the largest collections of pieces of art in the world. The collection is housed in 4 buildings and the most famous is the Winter Palace and the former Royal residence. The museum has over three million items, among them are examples of pre-historic culture – Egyptian art, the art of Antiquity, Scythian gold and a great collection of Western European paintings and sculptures. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 03 : St. Petersburg – Tour to the town of Pushkin**

After buffet breakfast, proceed for a tour of the town of Pushkin – the former summer residence of Queen Catherine II (4 hrs.). Located 25 kms south of St. Petersburg, the former country residence of Russian family is a fascinating specimen of the world architecture. It has gorgeous palaces and magnificent monuments to smaller pavilions and parks. In Catherine Palace one can find objects of applied art furniture, paintings, unique collection of porcelain, bronze and sculptures. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 04 : St. Petersburg – Moscow – City tour**

After buffet breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Moscow. Arrive at Moscow – the capital of Russia and one of the biggest cities of the world. You will be met by a local representative and transferred to your hotel. The heart of the city is the Kremlin which stands on the crest of a hill above the Moskva River. Moscow has many modern buildings and is a city of theatres, opera and ballet. Afternoon proceed for half day city tour – the historical centre of the city – the Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, the Sofiskaya Embankment with the building of the St. Sophia Cathedral and the panorama of the Kremlin Walls. Also visit the modern part of the city – the Lenin Vorobiev Hills, the highest place in the city providing a beautiful view and the Poklonnaya Hill. In the evening visit the popular Moscow Circus – the most beloved form of national art. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 05 : Moscow – Kremlin and the Armoury Chamber**

After buffet breakfast, visit Kremlin ( the Territory) and the Armoury Chamber. The Armoury Chamber, a treasure house, is a part of the Grand Kremlin Palace's complex. One of the world's largest museums of applied art, it contains items ranging in age from the 4th century A.D. to the 20th century, arranged in thematic collections – weapons, jewellery, silverware, precious textiles and carriages. The Chamber was also the treasury of the Moscow czars and emperors for eight centuries. Evening – visit the Moscow Circus. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 06: Moscow – Vladimir – Suzdal**

After buffet breakfast, check out and proceed to Suzdal via Vladimir (203 kms). Arrive at Vladimir which was founded in 1108 as a fort. Visit the Golden Gates and the Uspensky Cathedral – the most significant building. Its oldest murals date from 1161. Proceed to Suzdal which was the town that was awarded The Golden Apple Prize by the International Journalist's Organization for preservation of its architectural ensemble. Arrive at Suzdal in the afternoon. Take a city tour of Suzdal visiting the Kremlin, Spaso-Evfimievsky monastery and the open-air museum of wooden architecture. Evening check in at the hotel in Suzdal. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 07: Suzdal – Ples – Kostroma – Yaroslavl**

After buffet breakfast, check out and proceed to Kostroma. On the way take a "green stop" in Ples (a small town located 65 kms. From Kostroma). Ples is a small town located in a picturesque place on the banks of the river Volga, its an ideal site for a picnic or a walking tour. Afternoon arrive at Kostroma also known as the "cradle of the Romanov dynasty". It is also well known for its handicrafts. Proceed for a half day city tour of Kostroma including Ipatievsky Monastery and the Church of Resurrection-on-Debra. Evening depart for Yaroslavl (250 kms. From Moscow). Arrive at Yaroslavl and check in at hotel. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 08: Yaroslavl – Rostov The Great – Pereyasavl – Zalessky – Zagorsk - Moscow**

After buffet breakfast, check out and depart for Moscow. On the way do a tour of Yaroslavl including visit to Transfiguration Monastery. Then arrive at Rostov-The-Great (190 kms. From Moscow) and do a city tour. This place is a sleepy old town with some magnificent buildings next to a lake. The focal point of the town is Kremlin. Its churches are good examples of Russian 17th century architecture. Afternoon take a photo stop

in Pereyaslavl – Zalessky (127 kms. From Moscow)/ Arrive at Zagorsk (60 kms. From Moscow). Evening visit the St. Trinity – Sergius Monastery, Russi'a most important religious and historical landmarks and still a place of spiritual pilgrimage. Lunch in the evening at a local restaurant in Zagorsk and then depart for Moscow. The trip ends in Moscow.

The logo for 'acti'e' features the word in a bold, italicized, grey sans-serif font. A stylized red graphic element, resembling a person in motion or a dynamic shape, is superimposed over the 'i' and 'e'. The red shape has a curved, upward-sweeping line that passes through the dot of the 'i' and extends towards the 'e'.

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