



*MORE THAN TRAVEL
TAILOR- MADE TOURS TO RUSSIA*

SPECIAL OFFER
MASLENITSA WEEK IN RUSSIA
8 Days

Moscow to St Petersburg

23 February - 1 March 2020

Your personal Consultant:

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Uk & Europe: +44 20 3608 2859

This package is available either

Group Tour (scheduled departures)
or

Private Tour (flexible dates)

MOSCOW & Saint-Petersburg





1
Safe.

2
Secure.

3
Reliable.



- *Australian-owned company*



- *Over 10 years experience in Russia*



- *24/7 support in Australia and Russia*





Russian Visa

- **Get you personal Visa Support Letter (VSL)**
- **Fill in Visa Application form online**
- **Send all the required documents either to the Embassy or Visa Centre**
- **Get your Russian visa delivered to you by mail/courier**



Happy Travelers

In 2018 we have hosted over a thousand travelers and we hope all of them not only enjoyed it but truly discovered Russia! Please have a look at our reviews and feedbacks below from people that have travelled with us.



If you're hesitating about going to Russia, you may find these reviews useful:

- Trustpilot <https://www.trustpilot.com/review/www.discoveryrussia.com.au>
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DiscoveryRussiaTravel/reviews/>

Itinerary

Day 1

- Hello Moscow
- Meet and greet at Moscow airport
- Transfer to your hotel
- **GROUP DEPARTURES: Welcome**
Maslenitsa Dinner with traditional Russian pancakes and treats
- Evening free at leisure

Day 3

- Breakfast
- Visiting Tretyakov State Art Gallery & Metro tour
- Novodevichy convent
- Kolomenskoye Estate and the traditional Maslenitsa festivities
- VDNKh & skating experience & free time

Day 2

- Breakfast
- Full day, 8 hours Guided tour
- Sightseeing bus city tour Visiting Kremlin (all the highlights including the Armory)
- Downtown city tour

Day 4

- Breakfast
- Transfer to railway station, board high speed bullet train for 4 hours journey to Saint-Petersburg
- Meet and greet at Saint-Petersburg railway station, transfer to your hotel in the downtown

Itinerary



Day 5

- **Breakfast**
- **Full day, 8 hours Guided Tour**
- **Visiting the Winter Palace and the Hermitage**
- **Visiting Isaac Cathedral, Kazan Cathedral, visiting the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood**
- **Visiting Peter & Paul Fortress and royal tombs, passing by Aurora warship cruiser**

Day 7

- **Breakfast**
- **Day at Leisure/optional tours**

Day 6

- **Breakfast**
- **6 hours Guided tour**
- **Pushkin/Tsarskoye Selo**
- **Catherine's palace, Free time in the park**
- **Maslenitsa Celebration**
- **Optional: Mariinsky ballet**

Day 8

- **Breakfast**
- **Check out from the hotel**
- **Transfer to the airport for the departure flight**

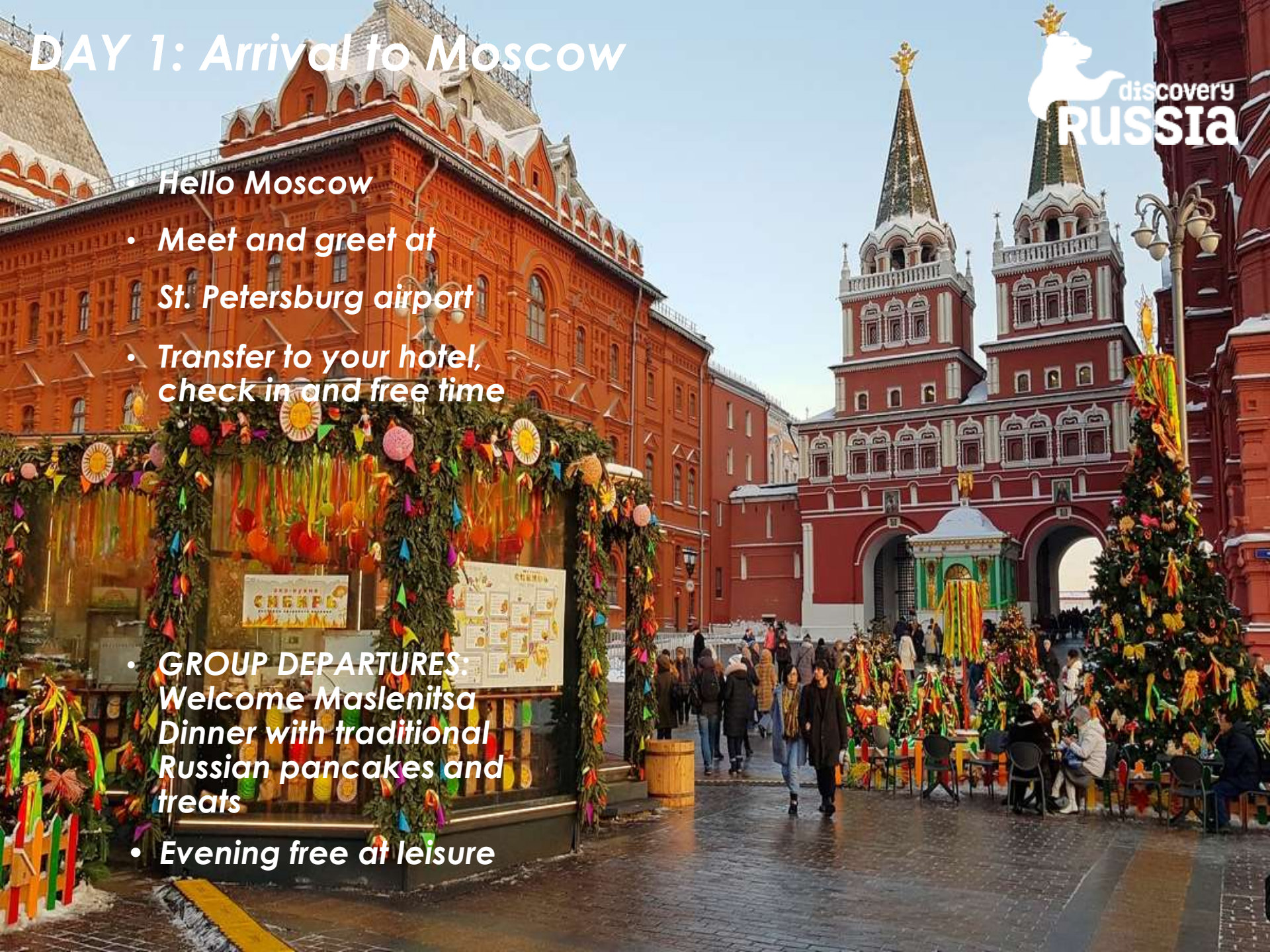
DAY 1: Arrival to Moscow



- Hello Moscow
- Meet and greet at St. Petersburg airport
- Transfer to your hotel, check in and free time

- **GROUP DEPARTURES:**
Welcome Maslenitsa
Dinner with traditional
Russian pancakes and
treats

- Evening free at leisure



DAY 1: Continued...



Maslenitsa is the oldest surviving Slavic holiday that has its origins in the pagan tradition. In Slavic mythology, Maslenitsa is a sun-festival, personified by the ancient god Volos, and a celebration of the imminent end of the winter. In the Christian tradition, Maslenitsa is the last week before the onset of Great Lent.



DAY 1: Continued...



During the week of Maslenitsa, meat is already forbidden to Orthodox Christians, and it is the last week during which eggs, milk, cheese and other dairy products are permitted, leading to its name of "Cheese-fare week" or "Crepe week". The most characteristic food of Maslenitsa is thin pancakes or crepes, made from the rich foods still allowed by the Orthodox tradition that week: butter, eggs and milk.



DAY 2: Discover Moscow



- *Breakfast*
- *Bus city tour (including stops at Novodevichy Convent, & Sparrow Hills)*
- *Visit Kremlin (all the highlights including the Armory) & explore Christmas markets in the downtown*
- *City centre walking tour (GUM department store, St Basil's Cathedral, Nikolskaya street , KGB building, Bolshoi theatre)*
- *Optional activities: ice rink on the Red Square*

DAY 3: Discover Moscow



- **Breakfast**
- **Visiting Tretyakov State Art Gallery & Metro tour**
- **Novodevichy convent**
- **Kolomenskoye Estate, UNESCO World Heritage Site & Wooden Palace**
- **Traditional Maslenitsa festivities in Kolomenskoye**
- **Visiting VDNKh Soviet exhibition complex and skating (optional)**
- **Today we will also use Moscow metro, the fastest and most reliable means of transport in this city. Old central stations are so beautiful that Josef Stalin called them “palaces for people”**



DAY 3: Continued...



In some regions, each day of Maslenitsa had its traditional activity. Monday may be the welcoming of “Lady Maslenitsa”. The community builds the Maslenitsa effigy out of straw, decorated with pieces of rags, and fixed to a pole formerly known as Kostroma. It is paraded around and the first pancakes may be made and offered to the poor. On Tuesday, young men might search for a fiancée to marry after Lent. On Wednesday sons-in-law may visit their mother-in-law who has prepared pancakes and invited other guests for a party. Thursday may be devoted to outdoor activities. People may take off work and spend the day sledging, ice skating, snowball fights and with sleigh rides. On Friday sons-in-law may invite their mothers-in-law for dinner.

DAY 4: Transfer to Saint-Petersburg



- Breakfast
- Transfer to railway station, board high speed bullet train for 4 hours journey to Saint-Petersburg
- Meet and greet at Saint-Petersburg railway station
- Transfer to your hotel in the downtown

A journey from the centre of Moscow to the centre of Saint-Petersburg now takes only 4 hours by a modern high speed train. Top two Russian cities are now connected more conveniently to enrich your Russian travel experience.



DAY 5: Discover St. Petersburg



- Breakfast, Followed by 8 hours full day guided tour
- Visiting the Winter Palace and the Hermitage
- Visiting Isaac Cathedral, Kazan Cathedral, visiting the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood
- Lunch in a local bistro, “stolovaya” where you can try traditional Russian food (meals not included)
- Visiting Peter & Paul Fortress & Cathedral with royal tombs

DAY 5: Continued,...



Morning: The Winter Palace and the Hermitage guided tour.

We politely insist you to do it on foot so you can truly understand and feel the city's soul than to explore its secret walking trails. Let us surprise you with unusual homes, architecture, perspectives and stunning views.

Today, you visit one of the most important sites in Russian history and heritage, the world-famous palace of the Hermitage, the former residence of the Royal Family.

The Hermitage today is one of the largest museums in the world, founded in 1764; its collection includes over 2.7 mln items. Our experienced guide will bring the museum to life to her knowledge.

Your guide will take you for a lunch in a local bistro, “stolovaya” where you can try traditional Russian food.

DAY 5: Continued...



Then, take a tour to see the city's iconic landmark: Isaac Cathedral, Kazan Cathedral, and visit the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood — one of the most powerful constructions in Russian Orthodox architecture; an absolutely enthralling must-see and a place where Tsar Alexander II was fatally wounded by anarchists in 1881.

**We continue the day with a visit to Peter and Paul Fortress, a place where the city was founded; the cathedral keeps Romanov tombs
Passing by Aurora Boat, the Revolution Firestarter**




DAY 6: Discover St. Petersburg



- *Breakfast, followed by 6 hours guided tour*
- *Pushkin/Tsarskoye Selo*
- *Catherine's palace & Amber room*
- *Maslenitsa Celebration*



Catherine's palace is the most famous palaces of the countryside. You will see renowned palaces of the Romanov imperial family Pushkin/Tsarskoye Selo, now a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Top attractions include huge Catherine's palace, Alexander's palace and other buildings and parks. And we shall also have a look at—strange as it may seem—its own Chinatown. The world-famous “Amber Room”, known as the ‘Eighth Wonder of the World’, is here in Catherine's palace.



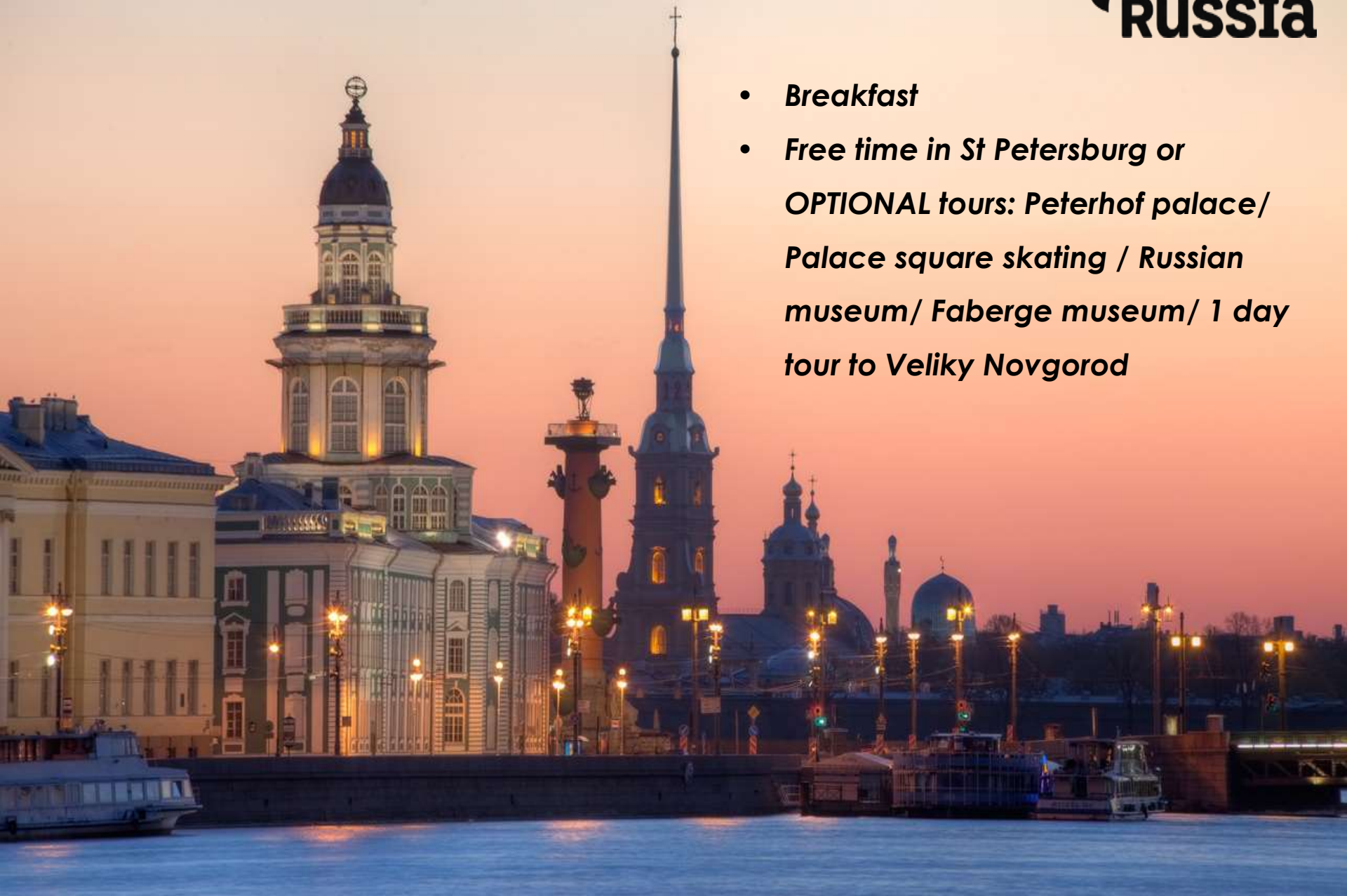
DAY 6: *Continued,...*

Since Lent excludes parties, secular music, dancing and other distractions from spiritual life, Maslenitsa represents the last chance to take part in social activities that are not appropriate during the more prayerful, sober and introspective Lenten season.

DAY 7: At leisure



- *Breakfast*
- *Free time in St Petersburg or
OPTIONAL tours: Peterhof palace/
Palace square skating / Russian
museum/ Faberge museum/ 1 day
tour to Veliky Novgorod*



DAY 7. Optional day tour to Veliky Novgorod

- Breakfast
- Transfer to Veliky Novgorod by private car/Van/Bus, 2 hours ride
- Guided tour including Kremlin, St. Sophia's Cathedral, "1000 years of Russia" monument, beautiful white stone ancient architecture and Vitoslavlitsy museum of wooden architecture

DAY 8: Farewell

- *Breakfast*
- *Check out from the hotel*
- *Transfer to the airport for departure flight*





Private Tour, 2 people

Rate per person (3* hotels, sharing 1 twin/double room) **2,335** AUD

Rate per person (4* hotels, sharing 1 twin/double room) **2,800** AUD

Rate per person (5* hotels, sharing 1 twin/double room) **3,500** AUD

Dates are flexible

Group Tours

Rate per person 3* hotels, sharing 1 twin/double room: **1**, AUD

Rate per person 3*, single room - **2**, AUD

Rate per person 4* hotels, sharing 1 twin/double room: **2**, AUD

Rate per person 4*, single room - **3**, AUD

Rate per person 5* hotels, sharing 1 twin/double room: **2**, AUD

Rate per person 5*, single room - **4**, AUD

Set departures: **23rd Feb 2020**

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GENERAL INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation 3 nights Moscow, 4 nights St Petersburg, central locations (see last page), with breakfast included
- Dedicated private local English-speaking guide in Moscow & St. Petersburg
- Entrance Tickets to all listed attractions (St Petersburg: Hermitage, St Isaac's Cathedral, Church on Spilled Blood, Catherine's Palace & Amber Room; Moscow: Kremlin & Armoury, city tour, metro tour, Kolomenskoe Estate & The Palace, Tretyakov State Art Gallery) & VDNKh tour
- Transfers as per program: airport-hotel Moscow, hotel-train station, train station Saint-Petersburg-hotel, hotel-airport; full metro/public transport pass in Saint-Petersburg
- Transportation on tours on modern a/c van/minivan/bus
- Moscow - Saint Petersburg one way intercity high-speed train SAPSAN, second class
- 24/7 English-speaking support line in Russia
- Russian visa supporting documents
- Complimentary welcome package including local sim card with data

ADD ONS FOR SET GROUP DEPARTURES:

- Group tour is fully escorted by **bilingual tour director**; Group size 20 people maximum
- **Welcome Maslenitsa Dinner with traditional Russian pancakes and treats**
- **Farewell dinner with wine**

NOT INCLUDED:

- International flights
- Visa fee
- Extras of Personal nature
- Lunches and dinners not mentioned
- Travel insurance

OPTIONAL TOUR IN ST PETERSBURG

DAY TRIP TO VELIKY NOVGOROD

- Transfer to Veliky Novgorod by train
 - Guided tour including Kremlin
 - St Sofia's Cathedral,
 - "1000 years of Russia" monument
 - Beautiful white stone ancient architecture
 - Vitoslavlitsy museum of wooden architecture
 - Return to St Petersburg by train
- Rate per person: AUD 250 based on minimum 2 people to go

MARIINSKY BALLET:

- From AUD 80 per person (ticket only/no guidance/transportation)

NATIONAL FOLK SHOW IN NIKOLAEV PALACE: from AUD 200

FABERGE MUSEUM

- AUD 70 per person based on minimum 2 people to go

RUSSIAN MUSEUM GUIDED TOUR

- AUD 115 per person based on minimum 2 people to go

OPTIONAL TOURS MOSCOW

MUSEUM OF COSMONAUTICS GUIDED TOUR:

- AUD 115 per person based on minimum 2 people to go

COLD WAR TRACES: SECRET ANTI- NUCLEAR BUNKER -42

- AUD 160 per person based on minimum 2 people to go

OUR HAND PICKED HOTELS IN THE DOWNTOWNS

What differs our tour from many similar options? Great sightseeing program, fantastic local guides, all the entrance tickets included, small group - up to 20 people maximum. Last but not least - THE LOCATIONS!

In Russia, location is everything. Every morning, traffic jams blocks the traffic to the city centers in Moscow and St Petersburg. Cities are huge and you may find yourself out in the middle of nowhere to go out in the evening, staying too far from the downtown. Or you may spend an hour or more to get to the place of interest! **Discovery Russia does NOT WASTE your valuable time. We do NOT compromise on QUALITY** either. Our hand-picked properties totally comply with international standards, have raving reviews from the previous travelers, and are located within walking distance to Red Square, Kremlin, Arbat, Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow) and Palace Square/Hermitage/Isaac's Cathedral and other attractions of the downtown in St Petersburg.

SAINT PETERSBURG

3* Aglaya/Privilege hotel or similar

4* Chaykovsky/Golden Age Hotel or similar

5* Astoria/So Sofitel/Angleterre or similar*

*more options available, please inquire

MOSCOW

3* Galereya Hotel/Stoleshnikov Boutique/ or similar

4* Azimut Smolenskaya/Pushkin/Hitrovka or similar

5* Metropole/Savoy/Marriott Grand or similar*