



MORE THAN TRAVEL
TAILOR- MADE TOURS TO RUSSIA

Your personal Consultant:

Hope

Australia: +61 2 831 0 7667

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SPECIAL OFFER
THE BEST OF RUSSIA AND
NORTHERN LIGHTS
12 Days

20 - 31 December 2019

This package is available either
Group Tour (scheduled departures)
or
Private Tour (flexible dates)

MURMANSK, LOVOZERO, MOSCOW & ST
PETERSBURG



Note: Northern Lights do not actually have a "season". You can observe it from August till March in good night conditions.



1
Safe.

2
Secure.

3
Reliable.



- *Australian-owned company*



- *Over 10 years experience in Russia*



- *24/7 support*





Russian visa: easy to obtain

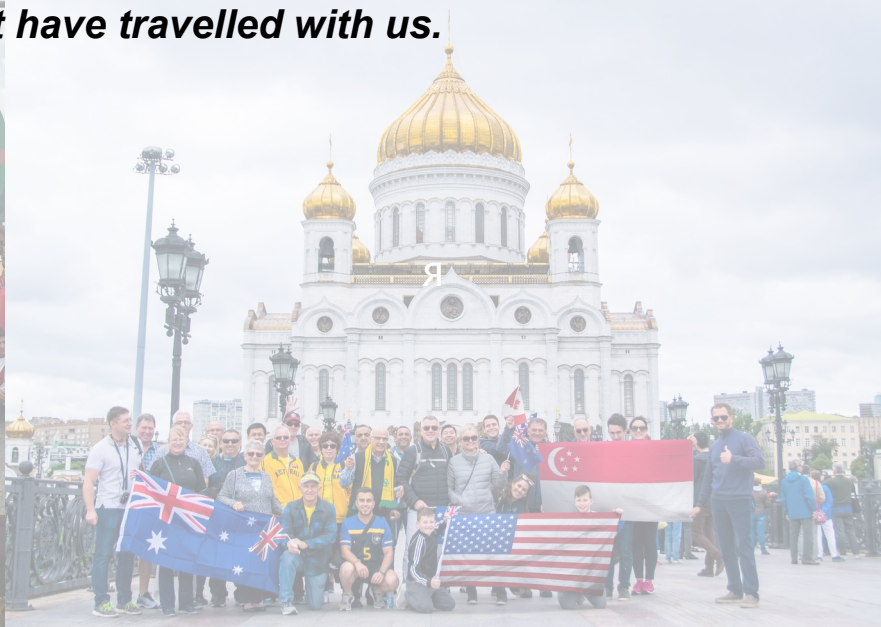
***How to obtain a Russian Visa in an easy way:
Step by Step Guide***

- 1. Book your tour with Discovery Russia, get you personal Visa Support Letter (VSL) & Discovery Russia's detailed Visa Manuals***
- 2. Fill in Visa Application form***
- 3. Apply to the Embassy or Russian Visa Centre personally or send Application, passport, photo to the Embassy or Russian visa Center by mail***
- 4. Obtain your Russian visa in the Embassy, Russian Visa Centre or by mail***

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

- Meet and greet at Murmansk airport
- Transfer to your hotel
- Murmansk city tour
- The Icebreaker “Lenin” museum
- Evening free-time

Day 2

- Breakfast
- Transfer to Lovozero village
- Cruise to the tourist village Ulinskaya Salma
- Northern Lights Hunting

Day 3

- Breakfast
- Lovozero Explorer Tour
- Northern Lights Hunting

Day 4

- Breakfast
- Optional tour: Lake Seydozero Northern Lights Hunting
- Time to enjoy Russian winter

Day 5

- Breakfast
- Return to Murmansk
- Drop off at the airport/ Flight to Moscow
- Meet and greet at Moscow airport
- Transfer to your hotel
- Moscow welcome dinner & vodka tasting

Day 6

- Breakfast
- Full day, 8 hours Guided tour Visiting Kremlin (all the highlights including the Armory) City centre (GUM department store, St Basil's Cathedral, Nikolskaya street, KGB building, Bolshoi theatre)
- Downtown city tour & Christmas markets

Day 7

- Breakfast
- Full day, 8 hours Guided tour
- Tretyakov State Art Gallery
- Kolomenskoye Estate & Wooden Palace
- Metro tour
- VDNKh & skating experience & free time

Day 8

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

Itinerary

Day 9

- *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, passing by Aurora boat*

Day 10

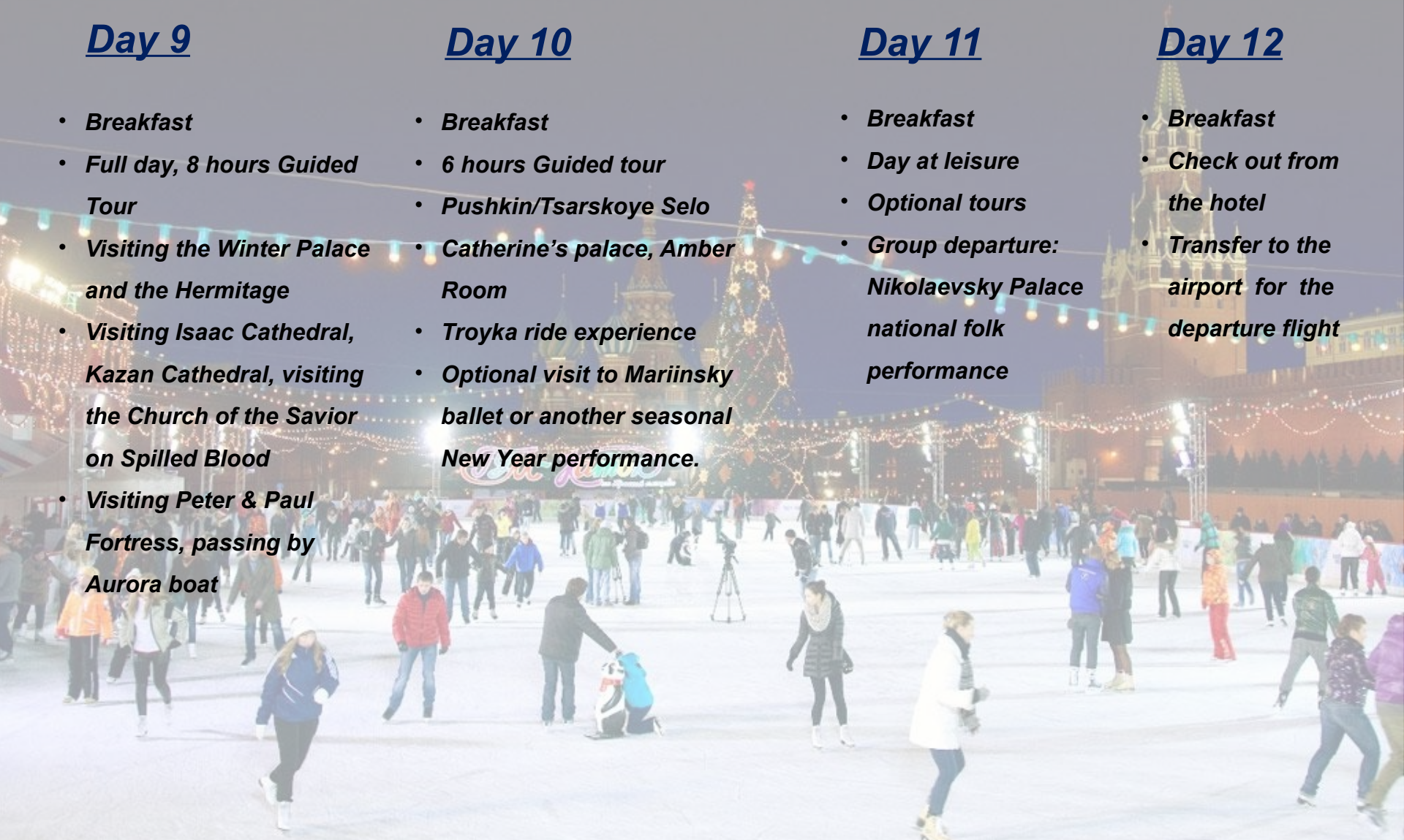
- *Breakfast*
- *6 hours Guided tour*
- *Pushkin/Tsarskoye Selo*
- *Catherine's palace, Amber Room*
- *Troyka ride experience*
- *Optional visit to Mariinsky ballet or another seasonal New Year performance.*

Day 11

- *Breakfast*
- *Day at leisure*
- *Optional tours*
- *Group departure: Nikolaevsky Palace national folk performance*

Day 12

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



DAY 1: Murmansk, gate to Arctic



- ***Arrival at Murmansk. Meet & greet at the airport, transfer to your hotel, luggage drop off and city tour. Murmansk is the largest city in the world north of the Arctic Circle. Founded in 1915 as a supply port in World War I, it was a base for the British, French, and American expeditionary forces against the Bolsheviks in 1918. We shall visit either the Naval Museum or the Historical Museum.***
- ***After lunch, visit museum of icebreaker “Lenin”, the first nuclear icebreaker in the world! Murmansk played an important role as a Russian trade link with the Allies during the Second World War II. Various supplies were brought to the city with the help of the Arctic convoys. Murmansk was heavily damaged during the war. It was restored in the beginning of the 1950ies.***
- ***Evening free at leisure as we prepare to the Northern Lights adventure. In good conditions, it might be possible to observe northern lights in Murmansk city itself!***

DAY 2: Lovozero / Northern Lights Hunt



- *Transfer to Lovozero village (270 km, 4-5 hours drive). Cruise to the tourist village Ulinskaya Salma (3* property) across the Lake or transfer to our sweet 4* wooden eco lodge Northern Pearl located 12 kilometers from Lovozero village. In both options, you will enjoy premium location and cozy eco-friendly accommodations.*
- *Walking, mountaineering and water tours (seasonal) at the same time, as well as great fishing (ice fishing in winter). In this weather-dependent region your plans may always be changed due to sudden snow storm or rain, and here, at the border of forest and tundra, near lakes, rivers and beautiful forest trails where is always a place for an activity.*
- *Lovozero is the top destination of the Kola Peninsula for Aurora Borealis viewing, there are very high chances to observe it directly at the eco lodges. However we recommend to spend at least 3 nights here to maximize the chances of Aurora Borealis viewing, and due to remoteness of the location.*

NOTE: *clear skies and solar activity are the critical conditions to watch Aurora Borealis, best timing is from 8:00 pm till 2:00 am.*

DAY 3: Lovozero Explorer tour / Northern Lights Hunt



- We shall visit the real, non-touristic camp of local nomads, whose life totally depends on deers. You will be able to witness how they survive and cope with the local climate. The tour provides amazing photo opportunities. It is possible to ride on deers and feed them.*
- Return to the camp. Russian Banya experience in the evening (optional, not included) and Northern Lights watching.*

DAY 4: At leisure/ optional tours & activities:

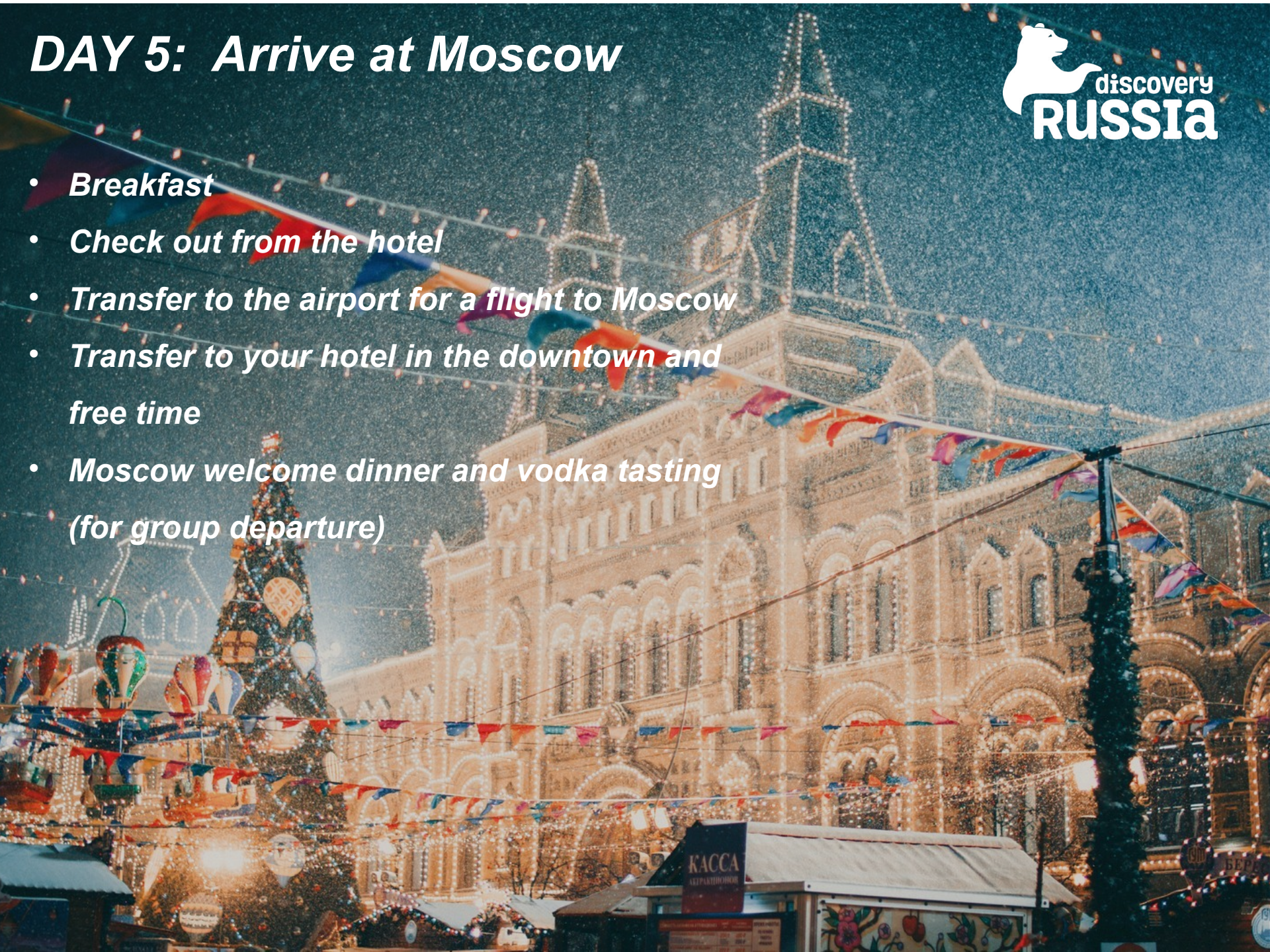


- *Seydozero tour. This lake located in the massif of the Lovozersky tundra is famous as mystical and mysterious place. It is considered a cradle of Giperborei, the ancient disappeared civilization inseparably linked with mythical stories and magic knowledge. Legends says that the ancient city of the Lappish shamans is now hidden from people's eyes. During the excursion on Seydozero you will surely get acquainted with one of the main sights of this place — Kuyva, a bas-relief of natural origin about 70 meters high. On a legend of Sami, Kuyva is a giant who lived in ancient times in the Lovozersky tundra. The giant plundered and killed Sami and was punished by the Lappish pagan gods – "is burned by lightning which have struck from lake waters". Picnic lunch. Return to the eco lodge.*
- *Saami people museum.*
- *Winter fishing*

DAY 5: Arrive at Moscow



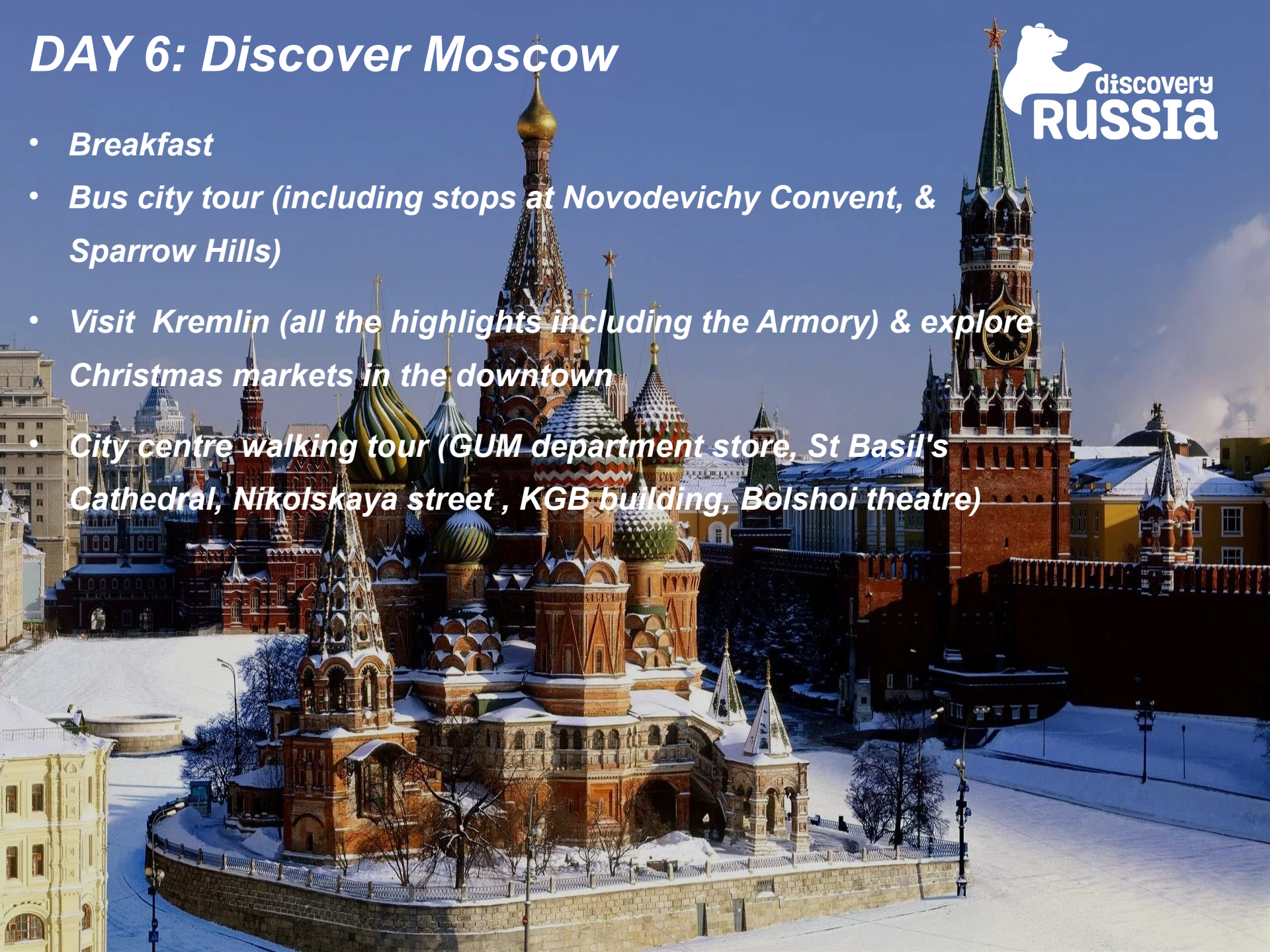
- *Breakfast*
- *Check out from the hotel*
- *Transfer to the airport for a flight to Moscow*
- *Transfer to your hotel in the downtown and free time*
- *Moscow welcome dinner and vodka tasting (for group departure)*



DAY 6: 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)*



DAY 7: Discover Moscow

- *Breakfast*
- *Kolomenskoye Estate, UNESCO World Heritage Site & Wooden Palace*
- *Visiting Tretyakov State Art Gallery & Metro tour*
- *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 8: Transfer to Saint-Petersburg



- ***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 St Petersburg now takes only 4 hours by a modern high speed train. Top two Russian tourist destinations are now connected more conveniently to enrich your Russian travel experience.

DAY 9: 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*
- *Visiting the Faberge museum*

DAY 9: *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 9: *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 Christian architecture; an absolutely enthralling must-see and a place where Alexander II was fatally wounded by anarchists in 1881.



DAY 10: Discover St. Petersburg



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

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.

DAY 10: Continued,...



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 10: *Continued,...*



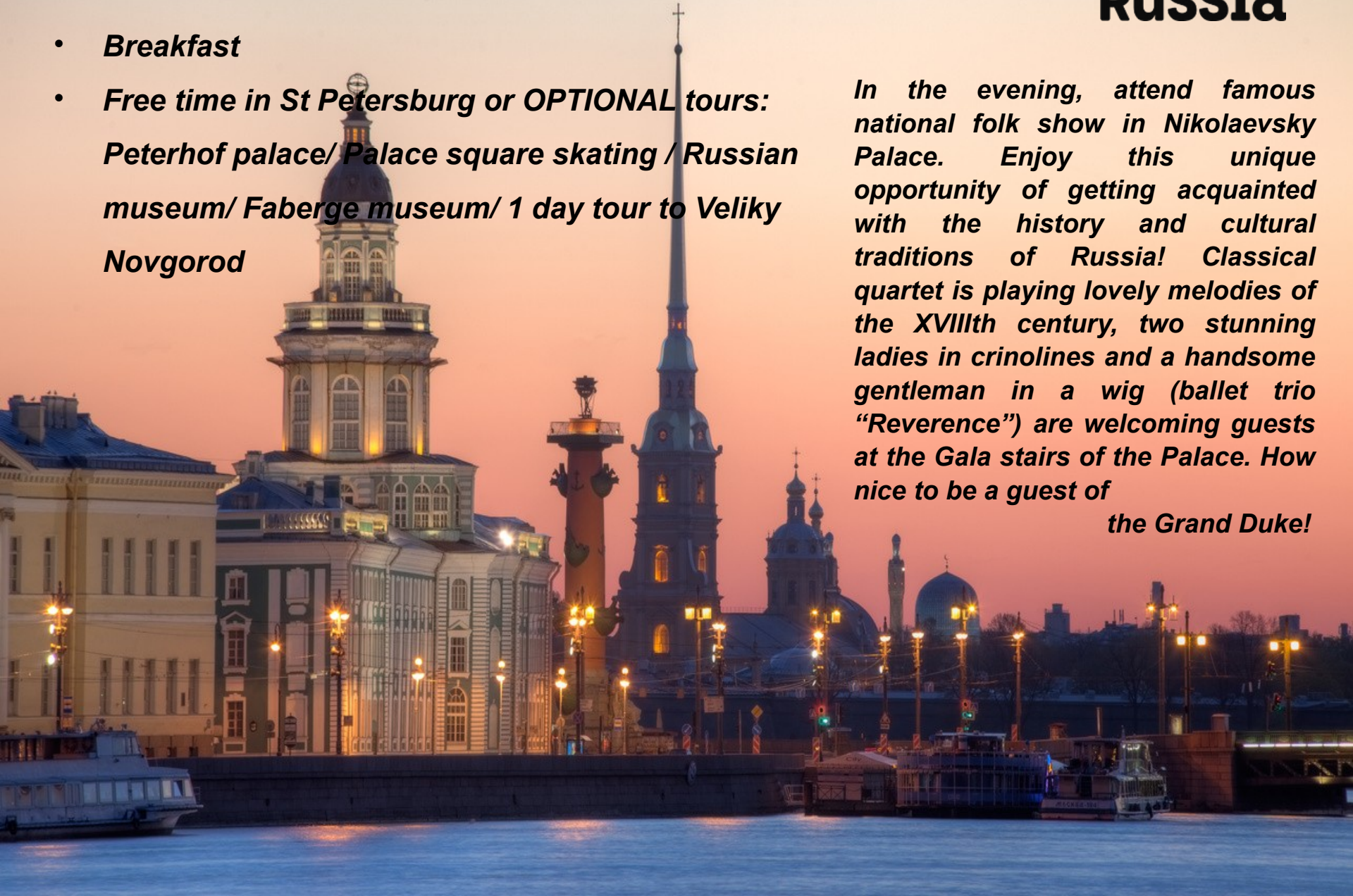
Russian winter... Incredible, unbelievable time! Winter offers us a chance to get a truly Russian experience and take a traditional troika ride. And as we're out of town, we will not miss this opportunity to get stunned by enchanted by winter landscape and dash through the snow on a colorful sleigh pulled by three horses!

DAY 11: 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**

In the evening, attend famous national folk show in Nikolaevsky Palace. Enjoy this unique opportunity of getting acquainted with the history and cultural traditions of Russia! Classical quartet is playing lovely melodies of the XVIIIth century, two stunning ladies in crinolines and a handsome gentleman in a wig (ballet trio "Reverence") are welcoming guests at the Gala stairs of the Palace. How nice to be a guest of the Grand Duke!





DAY 11: Evening at Nikolaevsky Palace



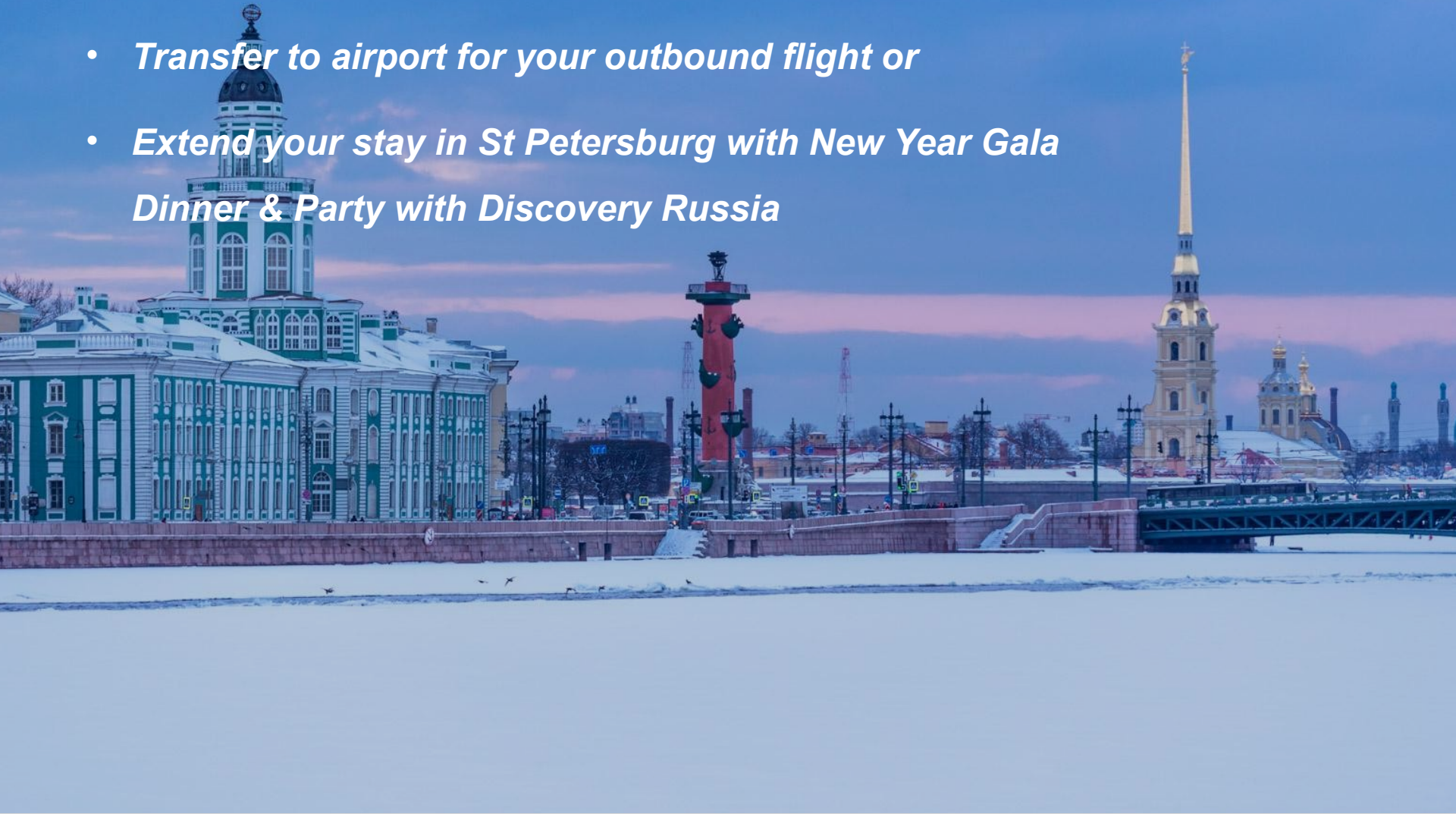
DAY 11. Optional day tour to Veliky Novgorod

- ***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 12: Farewell or Continue for New Year in Europe



- *Breakfast*
- *Transfer to airport for your outbound flight or*
- *Extend your stay in St Petersburg with New Year Gala Dinner & Party with Discovery Russia*



Small Group Tour * **Departure date: December 20, 2019**

Rate per person (3* hotels, sharing 1 twin/double room) 3,590 AUD

Rate per person (4* hotels, sharing 1 twin/double room) 5,459 AUD

Rate for Single 3* / 4* - 4,623 AUD / 7,042 AUD

* Up to 20 people maximum

** 5* hotel accommodation is available in Moscow & Saint-Petersburg

4* hotel is available at Northern Light for a private tour only



INCLUSIONS:

HAND PICKED ACCOMMODATION

- Selected accommodation: 11 nights accommodation in Russia: 1 night in Murmansk, 3 nights in Lovozero National Park (3* only), 3 nights in Moscow, 4 nights in St Petersburg

○ **MEALS**

- Full breakfast in city hotels
- Full board in 3* Lovozero lodge
- Moscow welcome dinner & vodka tasting
- Nikolaevsky Palace dinner & show

○ **TRANSPORTATION**

- Meet and greet at airports/train stations, return airport/train station transfers
- Return transfer to Lovozero
- Murmansk - Moscow flight, economy
- Intercity bullet train ticket, one way, St Petersburg - Moscow, 4 hours ride, economy. Please inquire about flight options

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INCLUSIONS: Continued

ACTIVITIES & TOURS

- *English-speaking guides*
- *Highlights of Murmansk half day guided tour: Lenin nuclear icebreaker, the museum and city panorama*
- *Full day (6 hours) guided tour in the Arctics: reindeer breeders explorer tour*
- *Full day (8 hours) guided tour in St Petersburg: Hermitage, St Isaac's Cathedral. Kazan Cathedral, Nevsky Prospekt, Church of the Spilled Blood, Peter & Paul Fortress & Cathedral*
- *St Petersburg full day guided tour (8 hours) to Pushkin/Tsarskoe Selo with entrance to the Palace & Troyka ride experience*
- *Moscow full day guided tour (8 hours): Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral, Moscow metro, GUM, KGB building, Bolshoi theatre, Sparrow Hills, Novodevichy Convent, Arbat, visit to Kremlin and the Armoury*
- *Moscow guided tour (8 hours): the Tretyakov State Art Gallery, Kolomenskoe Estate and Wooden Palace*
- *All entrance tickets as per program*
- *NIKOLEVSKY PALACE Folk Show with dinner*

MISCELLANEOUS

- *Local sim card with data*
- *Discovery Russia 24/7 English-speaking support line*
- *Russian visa letter of invitation (required by the Ministry of Tourism to grant you a Russian visa) is provided free of charge*



NOT INCLUDED:

- *International flights*
- *Visa fee*
- *Extras of Personal nature*
- *Lunches and dinners (full board - only in 3* Lovozero lodge)*

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Plan it wisely. Travel with Discovery Russia

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

NEW YEAR STAY IN ST PETERSBURG

2 extra nights + Gala Dinner from AUD

3* /4* hotel: 545/ 680 AUD per person

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

OPTIONAL TOUR IN LOVOZERO

Seydozero winter trekking tour - weather permitting

- AUD 70 per person based on 4 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**