



Your manager

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★ Trustpilot
★★★★★ 4,8 out of 5

Way of the Tsars

16 Days / 15 nights

This package is available as small group

Set small group departure: 4 August 2024





What our travelers say



Russian Visa? Easy!

1. Get your personal Visa Support Letter (VSL) & Discovery Russia's detailed Visa Manuals
2. Fill in online Visa Application form
3. Send your passport, photo, and application form to the Embassy or your nearest Russian visa Center



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Day 1: Arrival at Moscow

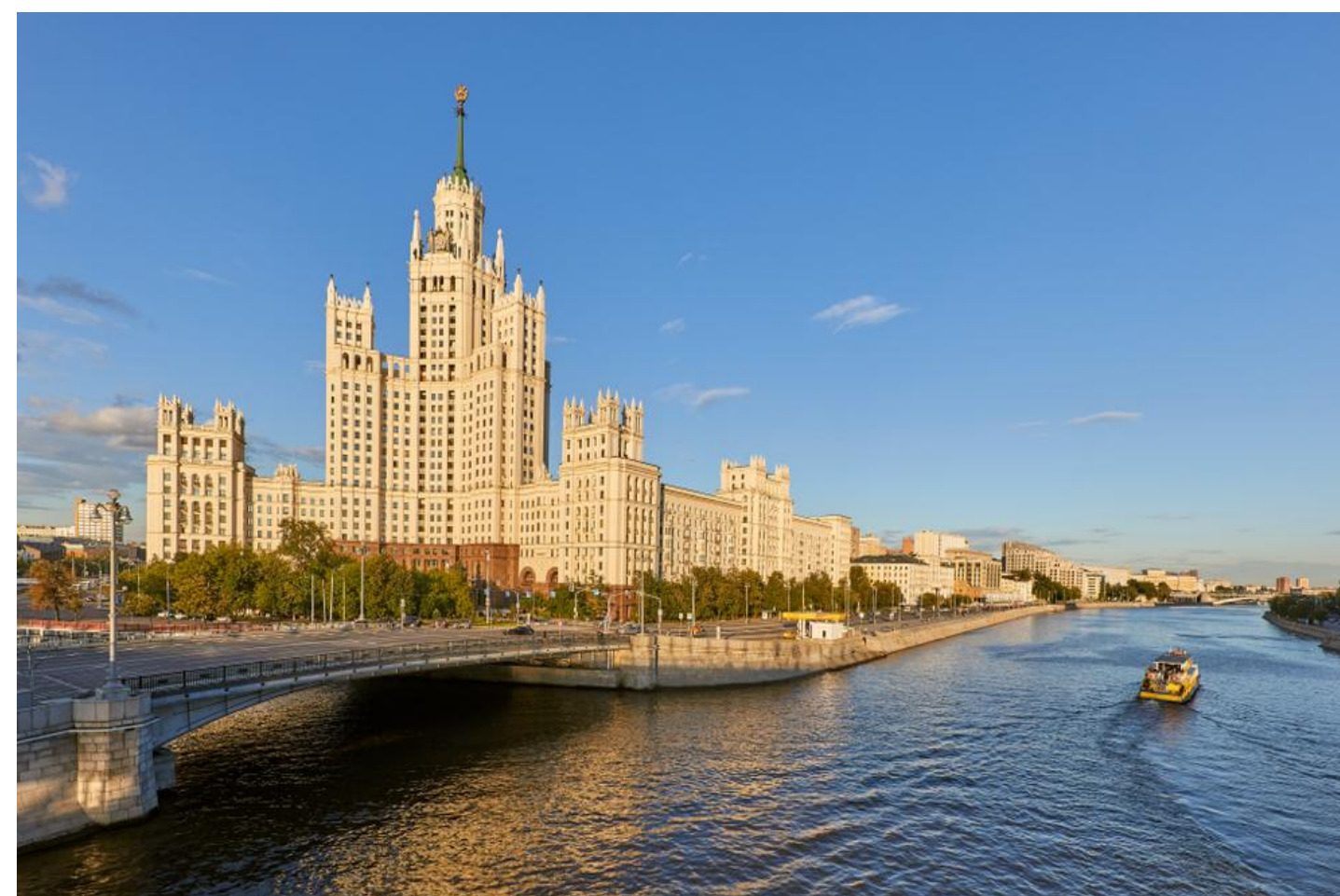
Welcome to Moscow!

A tour to Russia is not complete without a tour to Moscow, the heart of Russia and one of the oldest cities in the country. It is a city of bright contrasts where quiet patriarchal courts and small streets adjoin to futuristic business centres, and old neighbourhoods are interspersed with modern high-rises.

Founded in 1147, it is one the oldest cities in the country which witnessed all the major events of complicated Russian history.

Your driver will be waiting at the airport/train station to take you to the cozy hotel in the downtown.

Afternoon at leisure. Option pre-tours are available on request. If you wish to visit the Bolshoi, early booking is recommended.



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 **Moscow hotel**

 **Private airport -
hotel transfer**



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Day 2: Moscow At Leisure

The day is free at leisure or to explore other treasures of Moscow.

Optional tours of the day may include Kolomenskoe Estate, a former Royal estate located in the southern part of Moscow. The most significant attraction is the Ascension Church, which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage monument. Panorama 360 is the highest observation point in Europe (327 meters) and a panoramic restaurant. Travel outside the city for a real tank ride and shooting or visit colorful Izmaylovo Kremlin featuring an open air museum of wooden architecture and Vodka museum. Step 62 meters down to Bunker 42, a real, anti-nuclear Soviet bunker, used as the Kremlin's base-camp during the Caribbean Crisis.

At the appropriate time, transfer to the train station and board the train to Kazan.

Day 3: Sviyazhsk Island Tour

Welcome to Tatarstan, the heart of Tatar's Russia!

Upon arrival, have a breakfast and take a transfer to Sviyazhsk Island for half-day (4 hours) guided tour. Discover its unique history as the place has hardly changed over the last century.

With no fewer than 37 cultural monuments on the island, including two monasteries and seven churches, it's next to impossible to explore everything at this historic and scenic island, which is now UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The pearl of the collection is the Trinity Church – the only preserved wooden church in Sviyazhsk from the times of Ivan the Terrible (XVI century). It was built without a single nail and the axe marks made by the Yaroslavl carpenters can still be seen.

Then we will come back to Kazan and check-in at the hotel.

Evening free at leisure to explore the city.



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Day 4: Discover Kazan

Kazan is probably the most tourist-friendly city in Russia after St. Petersburg. The special thing about Kazan is the mix of two cultures: East and West, Muslim and Orthodox.

Today we have a really busy day to explore the main sights of Kazan. First of all, enjoy the tour to UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Kremlin of Kazan, with the professional English-speaking guide.

Our next point is the magnificent Kul Sharif Mosque. The impressive Qol-Şärif Mosque (also transliterated as Kul-Sharif) is the most important mosque in Tatarstan and one of the largest mosques in Europe.

As Kazan is the centre of Tatar culture, we will also visit the old Tatar villages to try a local Tatar tea. Later, have a culinary master-class of Tatar dishes at a traditional restaurant.

In the evening, take a transfer to the train station to board overnight train to Nizhny Novgorod.



Breakfast,
Tatar lunch



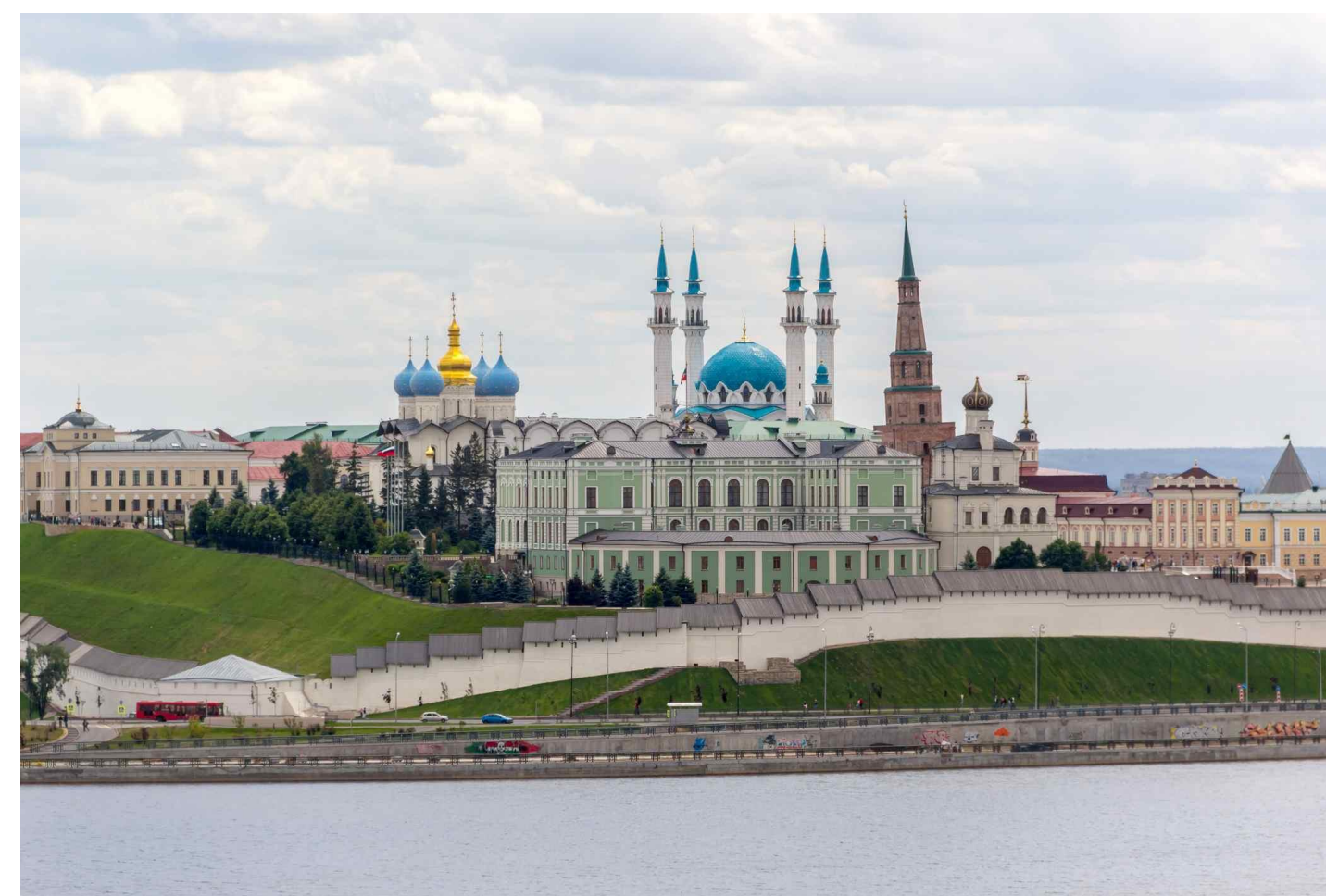
Tour



Kazan hotel



Train Kazan -
Nizhny Novgorod





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Day 5: Discover Central Russia

On arrival, take a transfer to the hotel. Guaranteed early check-in. Time to have breakfast and refresh after the train ride.

Today you will take Gorodets full-day guided tour including Samovar museum, Pryaniki museum and of course Russian Samovar tea ceremony!

Gorodets has been linked with the semi-legendary city of Little Kitezh, supposedly destroyed by the Mongol Hordes, whilst its sister city Greater Kitezh escaped by sinking into the depths of Lake Svetloyar, leaving behind only the echoes of ghostly singing that, with a large dose of wishful thinking, can still be heard today. Today, it is a centre for the folk crafts for which the entire Nizhny Novgorod region is famed. Small, elegant nineteenth-century streets hark back to a time. Any souvenir you've bought in Russia - there's a strong chance it was made in Gorodets.

In the evening, take a transfer back to Nizhny Novgorod.



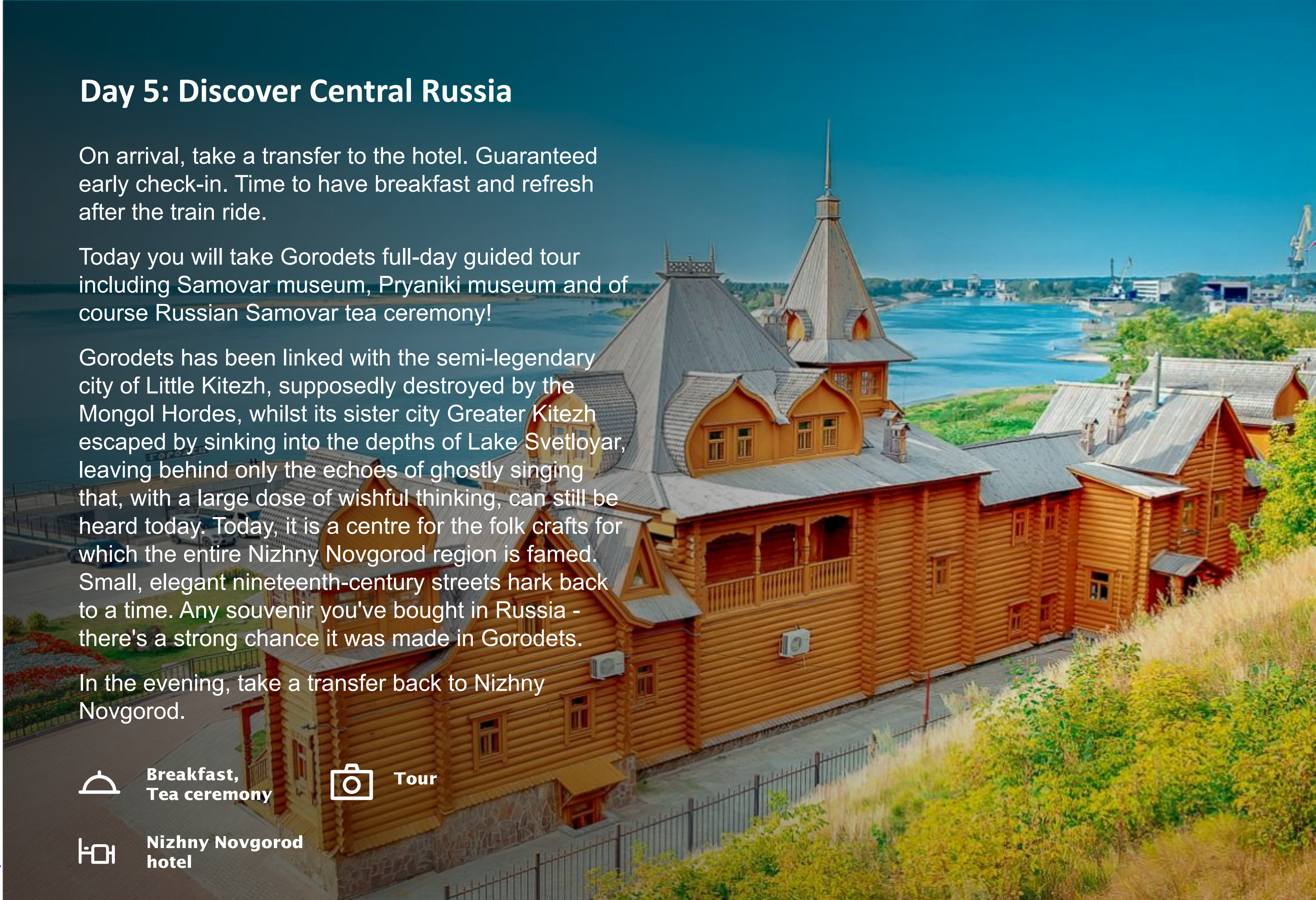
Breakfast,
Tea ceremony



Tour



Nizhny Novgorod
hotel



Day 6: Discover Nizhny Novgorod

Take a guided tour to Nizhny Novgorod, one of the hidden gems on the Russian touristic map. Nizhniy Novgorod is lucky to host one of the most beautiful provincial Kremlins built on high Volga river banks. Apparently, you will get the complete set of Russia's attractions: the Kremlin, the State Art Museum with a collection of icons and national crafts dated back to XIV century, wooden architecture on streets and an open-air museum of traditional architecture and cultures, beautiful churches, ancient monasteries, great traditional Russian food and heartily people.



During Polish invasion of 1621 it was Nizhny Novgorod and its citizens who assembled the people's army to fight for Moscow. In memory of it, you have seen Minin and Pozharsky monument in front of St. Basil's Cathedral at the Red Square. Since XIX century, Nizhny Novgorod was the leading Russian international trade centre.



In the evening, board the train to Vladimir. On arrival, transfer to the hotel and check-in.



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Breakfast,
Tea ceremony



Tour



Nizhny Novgorod
hotel

Day 7: Vladimir & Suzdal

Today you will visit the famous Dormition Cathedral, part of a World Heritage Site. The interior was painted in the 12th century and then repainted by Andrei Rublev, one of the greatest medieval Russian painters of Orthodox icons and frescos.

Then we will drive to Suzdal, located 30 km away from Vladimir. We shall have lunch and try different tastes of the famous local drink “medovukha”. Suzdal produces the very best one!

Proceed to the Suzdal Kremlin, the oldest part of the Russian city of Suzdal, dating from the 10th century. Like other Russian Kremllins, it was originally a fortress or citadel and was the religious and administrative centre of the city. Nowadays, the Suzdal Kremlin is a museum with numerous exhibits dedicated to the history of Suzdal, old Russian painting, applied art and the treasures of the monasteries and churches.

Check-in at the hotel in Suzdal and overnight.



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**Breakfast. Lunch,
Degustation of
Medovukha**



Tour



Suzdal hotel



Bus transfer

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Day 8: Rostov the Great

Take a transfer to Rostov the Great for a short guided tour of the Kremlin.

Founded in 862, fabulous Rostov the Great or Rostov Veliky (do not confuse it with Rostov-on-Don) is situated on the shores of the sparkling Lake Nero and is known as a tourist center of the famous Golden Ring itinerary. The scenic town with more than a thousand years of history boasts a huge number of cultural monuments and some of them are considered to be especially valuable cultural heritage sites.

Rostov the Great is famous for the 17th century Kremlin with numerous churches and gorgeous views from the Kremlin walls. (Unlike in Moscow Kremlin, here you might walk along the fortified wall).

Take a transfer to Yaroslavl. Check-in at the hotel and overnight.



Breakfast, Lunch



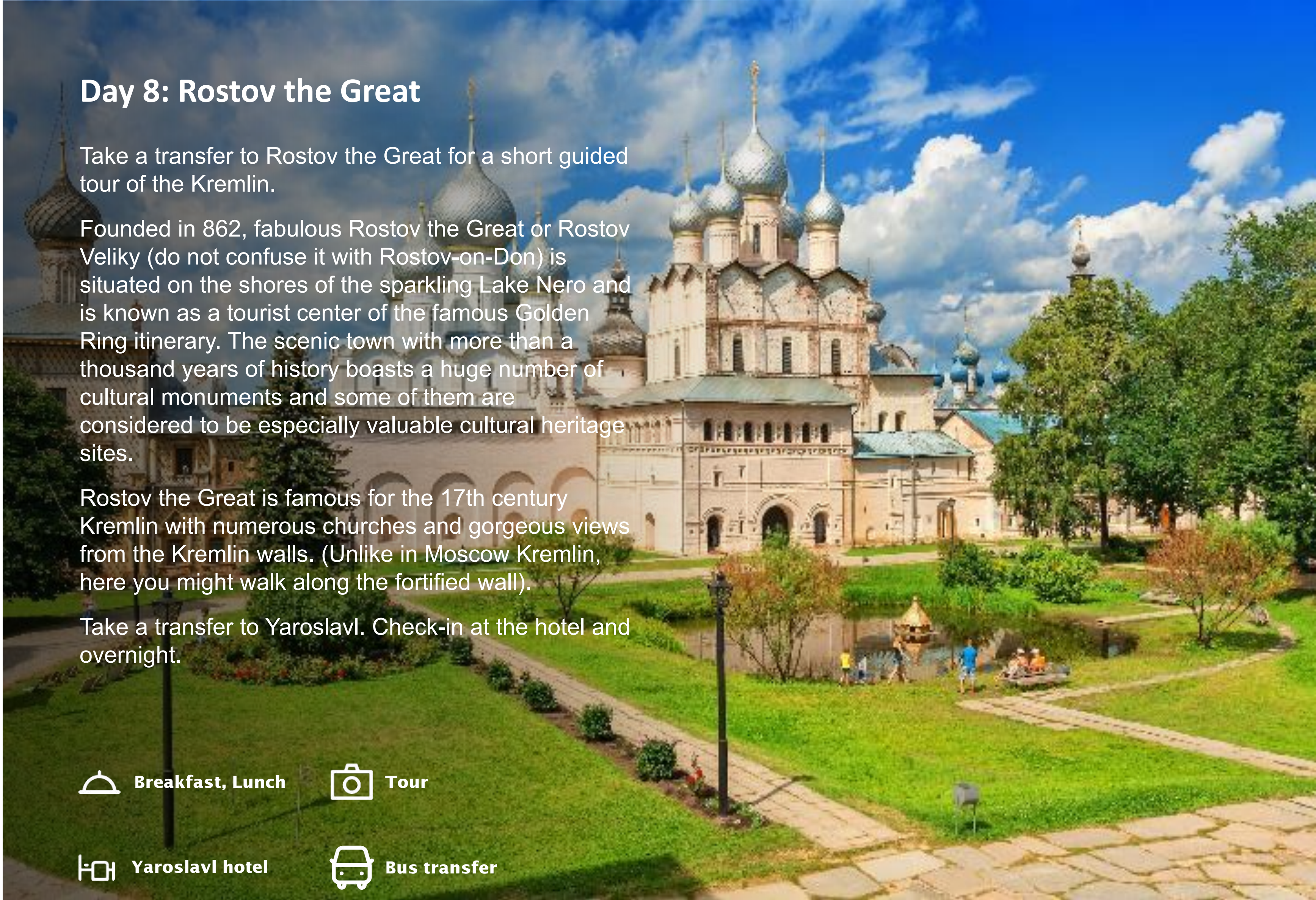
Tour



Yaroslavl hotel



Bus transfer



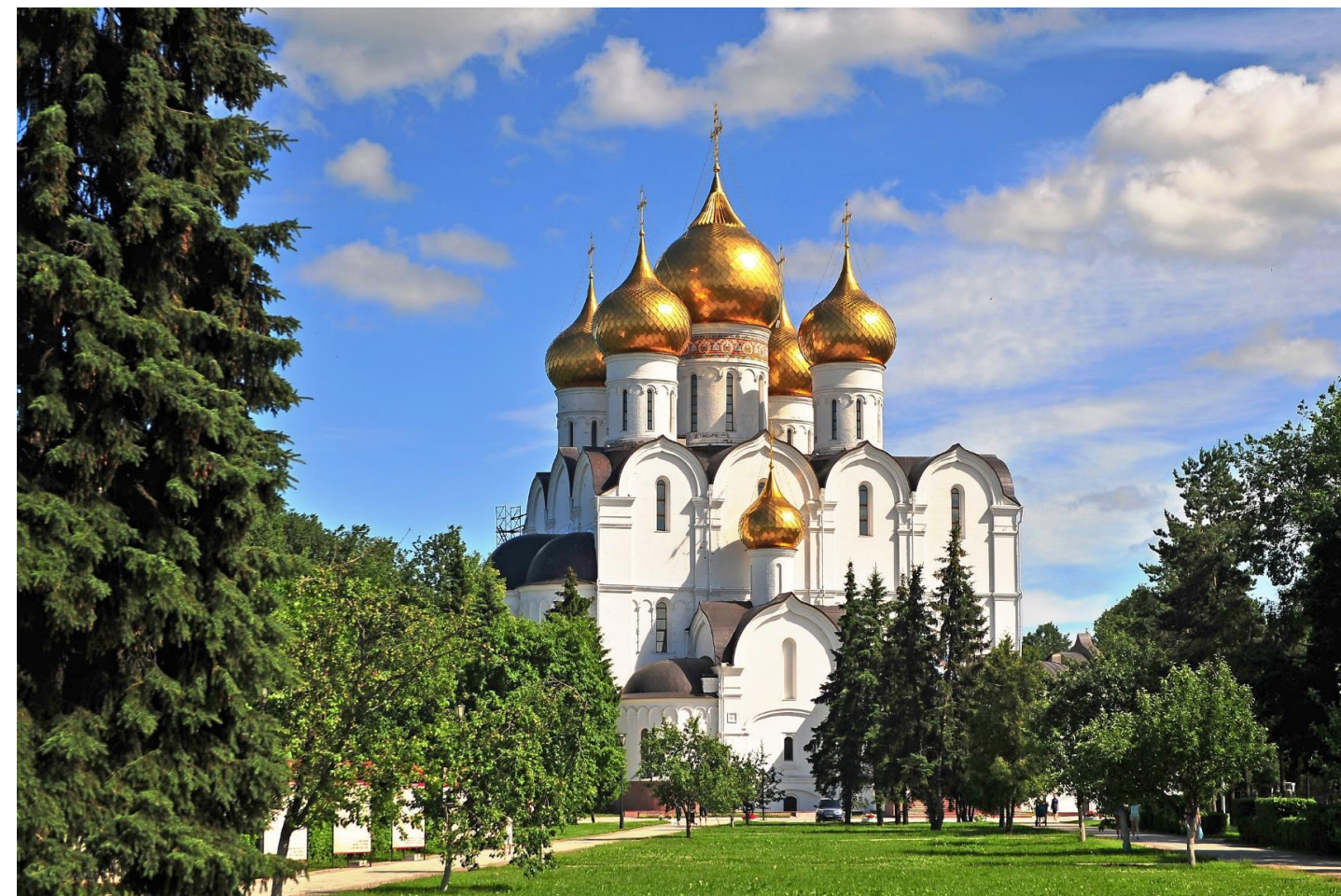
Day 9: Yaroslavl & Sergiev Posad

Start the day with the guided tour to Yaroslavl.

Proceed to the Residence of Maslenitsa for lunch. What is, or who is Maslenitsa? Sign up to our tour to find out!

Take a transfer to Sergiev Posad and enjoy a wonderful sightseeing tour around the most cherished treasures of Russian Christians, that includes a visit to the spiritual centre of Russian Orthodoxy - the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius. This religious and military complex represents an epitome of the growth of Russian architecture and contains some of that architecture's finest expressions. It exerted a profound influence on architecture in Russia and other parts of Eastern Europe. The property is a serial one, including buildings outside the main monastic compound.

In the evening, we will come back to Moscow.





Day 10: The Moscow Kremlin Tour

Set out for your first guided sightseeing tour in Moscow (6 hours). Visit the Moscow Kremlin, the very heart of Moscow and Russia! Walk along monumental walls, golden-domed cathedrals and, of course, most recognizable towers with iconic red stars. Explore the treasure of its world-famous museums including the Armory.

Visit the most amazing sample of Russian religious architecture, stunning St. Basil's cathedral and explore its fascinating history and collection of masterpieces and numerous legends. You have probably heard, the creator of it was blinded immediately after the completion of the cathedral so he could never replicate anything similar (fortunately, that was not the case).

During the tour, you also take a ride by the famous Moscow metro with its lavishly decorated "underground palaces".

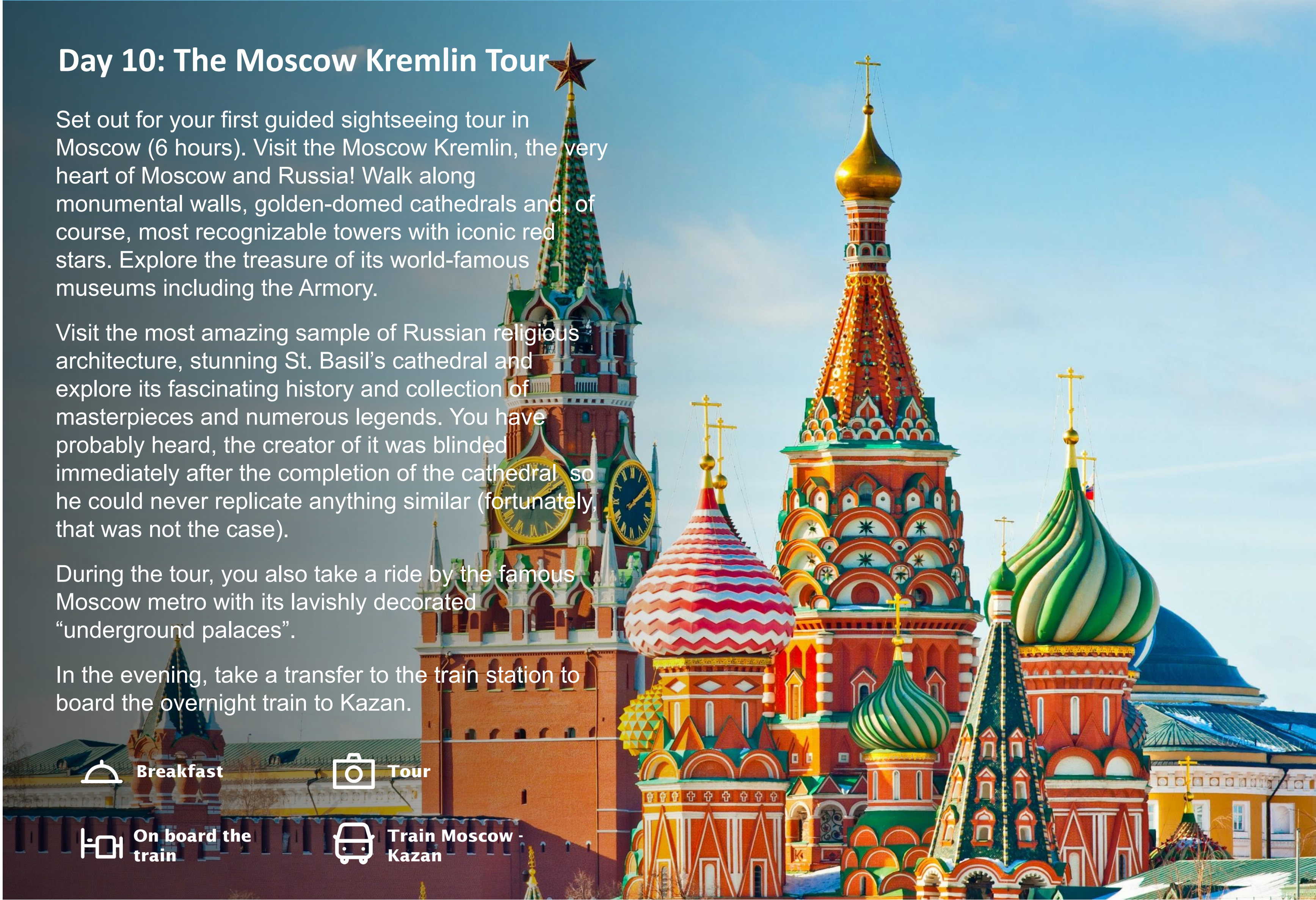
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Day 11: Moscow Tour

Full-day (8 hours) guided tour in Moscow.

Today, visit The Tretyakov State Art Gallery, the foremost depository of Russian fine art in the world.

We continue with a trip to Novodevichy Convent, probably the best-known cloister of Moscow and take a guided visit inside its medieval walls. Unlike many other cloisters, it has remained virtually intact since the 17th century and is now the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Enjoy a panoramic driving city tour to see Sparrow Hills with the best iconic views, hear the stories behind famous Stalin's skyscrapers, and finally, visit the VDNKh Soviet exhibition with the outstanding Museum of Cosmonautics.

In the evening, join your fellow travelers for group dinner to celebrate the success of your trip.



Day 12: Moscow - St. Petersburg

After check out of the hotel in Moscow, you will be transferred to the railway station to board high-speed train for 4 hours journey to St. Petersburg. On arrival at St. Petersburg, take a transfer to your hotel and check-in. The evening is free at leisure to explore downtown.

Founded by the Tsar Peter the Great on 27 May 1703, St Petersburg was planned and built as the capital of newly emerged Russian Empire. Today, it is arguably one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Immerse yourself deep into rich Russian history, art and culture, Russian Revolution & Romanov Imperial legacy. The White Nights, luminous northern midsummer eves, are the summer weeks when the Venice of the North is sparkling like good champagne.

Afternoon at leisure.



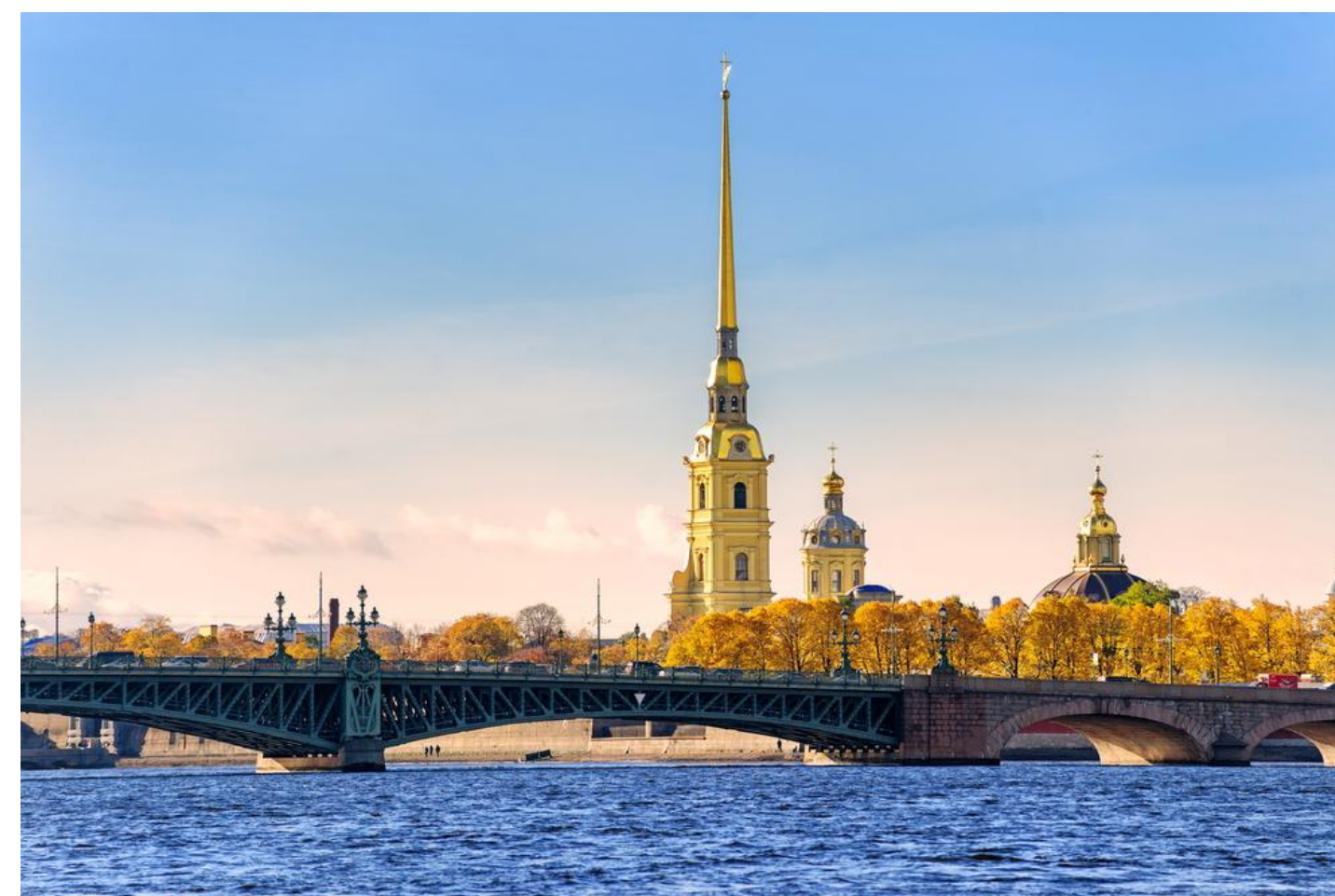
Breakfast



St. Petersburg
hotel



Bullet train





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Day 13: Peterhof Palace

Full day (8 hours) guided tour in St. Petersburg.

Today, you visit the royal Peterhof Palace. Gardens and parks are spread over more than four hundred hectares and include thirty-one amazing museums and beautiful Versailles-style gardens. Interiors, as always in Russia, are all made of gold. In summer, the Peterhof is especially good thanks to its famous fountains which run naturally.

Next, take the guided tour to the Peter and Paul Fortress and Cathedral. Enjoy a romantic cruise down the canals of St. Petersburg, and see some of the city's monuments on the banks of the River Neva, all beautifully illuminated for the evening. We draw your attention that this tour is seasonal and available only from May till October (weather permitting).



Breakfast



Tour



St. Petersburg
hotel



Day 14: The Hermitage & Iconic Landmarks

Full-day (8 hours) guided tour in St. Petersburg.

Today, you visit one of the most important sites in Russian history and heritage, the world-famous Palace of the Hermitage. Our experienced guides will make it interesting to follow the tricky path of the centuries behind it and give a better understanding of sophisticated Russian history. This former residence of the Romanovs Royal Family, the Hermitage today is the second-largest art museum in the world; its collection includes over 2.7 mln items.

Then, take a tour to see the city's iconic landmark: Isaac Cathedral, Kazan Cathedral, and the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood — one of the most powerful constructions in Russian Orthodox Christian architecture, and an enthralling must-see.



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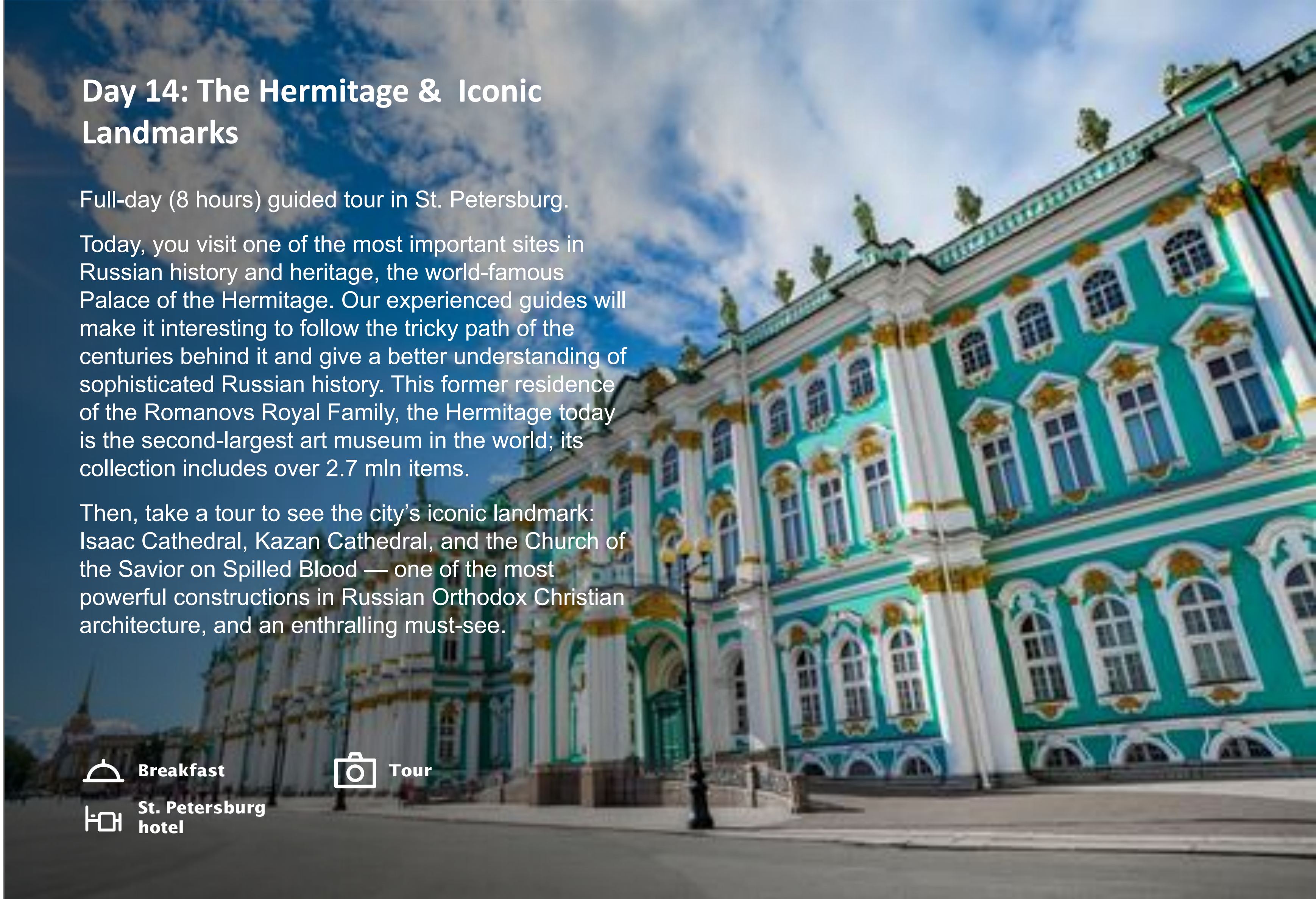
Breakfast



St. Petersburg
hotel



Tour



Day 15: The Catherine Palace

Day (6 hours) guided tour to Pushkin/Tsarskoye Selo (30 km south of St. Petersburg).

A splendid example of Russian Baroque, Catherine Palace delights its visitors with sumptuous Great Hall and Golden Enfilade of staterooms, including the world-famous Amber Room. The exposition of the palace covers almost 300-years history of the former imperial summer residence.

A widely acknowledged masterpiece of garden and landscape art, Catherine Park includes variously styled pavilions, bridges, monuments and exotic garden structures that carry visitors away to other countries and bygone ages.

Return to St Petersburg, the afternoon is free at leisure to explore the city on your own or get some Russian souvenirs. Extra tours are available, please inquire.

 **Breakfast**
Group tour:
Farewell dinner
with wine

 **Tour**

 **St. Petersburg**
hotel

Day 16: Farewell

After breakfast, take a private transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

 **Breakfast**

 **Private hotel -**
airport transfer



Dates & Rates USD per person in twin/double room

	★★★ hotels 1st/2d class train	★★★★ hotels 1st/2d class train	★★★★★ hotels 1st/2d class train
Group package*	\$ 3,475 // 3,385USD	\$ 3,950 // 3,880 USD	\$ 4,995 // 4,850USD
Single supplement	\$ 870 USD	\$ 1,315 USD	\$ 2,840 USD

Note: 5 accommodation is not available in Yaroslavl and Suzdal



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Dates & Rates AUD per person in twin/double room

	★★★ hotels 1st/2d class train	★★★★ hotels 1st/2d class train	★★★★★ hotels 1st/2d class train
Group package*	\$ 5,290 // 5,190 AUD	\$ 5,990 // 5,890 AUD	\$ 7,350 // 7,250 AUD
Single supplement	\$ 1,295 AUD	\$ 2,100 AUD	\$ 3,975 AUD

Note: 5 accommodation is not available in Yaroslavl and Suzdal



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Tour Inclusions

ACCOMMODATION

Hand-picked centrally located hotels:

- 1 night Kazan
- 1 night with early check-in Nizhny Novgorod
- 1 night Vladimir
- 1 night Yaroslavl
- 1 night Suzdal
- 4 nights in Moscow
- 4 nights in St. Petersburg

MEALS

- Full breakfast at the hotels (except Day 1)
- 4 lunches: Lunch after master class on cooking the national Tatar food // Degustation of Medovukha (lunch) in Suzdal // Lunch in Rostov the Great // Russian pancakes experience in the Residence of Maslenitsa (lunch) in Yaroslavl
- Russian tea ceremony in Gorodets (on Day 4)

TRANSPORTATION

- Superior trains on the route with a/c, heaters and dining carriage for your comfort
- Private transportation on tours as per program in a comfortable a/c car/minivan/bus
- Private return airport/train station transfers
- Meet & greet at the airports/train stations
- Full metro/public transport passes in Moscow & St. Petersburg

ENTRANCE TICKETS, VISAS & MISC.

- Entrance tickets to all listed attractions
- Russian visa supporting documents
- 24/7 English-speaking support line in Russia



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Tour Inclusions

SIGHTSEEING

Please take note that due to logistic issues we might occasionally amend the sequence of the tours.

- Sviyazhsk half-day (4 hours) tour
- Kazan full day (8 hours) guided tour: the Kul Sharif Mosque, the Kazan Kremlin, Chak-chak museum, Old Tatar Sloboda
- Nizhny Novgorod full day (8 hours) guided city tour // Gorodets full day (8 hours) guided city tour
- Guided tour to the Dormition Cathedral in Vladimir
- Guided tour to the Suzdal Kremlin
- Tour of Rostov Kremlin and exhibition of Finift (Rostov painted enamel)
- Guided tour of Yaroslavl including visiting the Residence of Maslenitsa
- Guided tour to the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius in Sergiev Posad

SIGHTSEEING

- Full-day (8 hours) guided tour of Moscow; Highlights include Moscow Kremlin (visiting the Cathedrals and the Armory), the Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral (outside), Lenin's Mausoleum (outside), GUM, the Bolshoi Theatre (outside), metro tour
- Moscow full day (8 hours) guided tour: the State Tretyakov Gallery, the Novodevichy Convent with the guided tour inside, Sparrow Hills, the VDNKh and the guided tour to the Museum of Cosmonautics, Stalin's skyscrapers tour
- St. Petersburg full-day (8 hours) guided tour: the Winter Palace and the Hermitage, Isaac Cathedral, Kazan Cathedral, the Church of the Savior on the Spilled Blood
- St Petersburg full day (8 hours) guided tour: the Royal Palace of Peterhof, the Peter & Paul Fortress and Cathedral, boat cruise
- Pushkin/Tsarskoe Selo day (6 hours) guided tour: Catherine's palace & Amber room

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Visa fee
- Porters
- Extras of personal nature
- Lunches and dinners
- Travel insurance

Check out our best selling tours



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Ice Age: Baikal & Olkhon

[View trip](#)



Grand Russia UNESCO Tour

[View trip](#)



Trans-Siberian Eastbound Moscow To Vladivostok

[View trip](#)



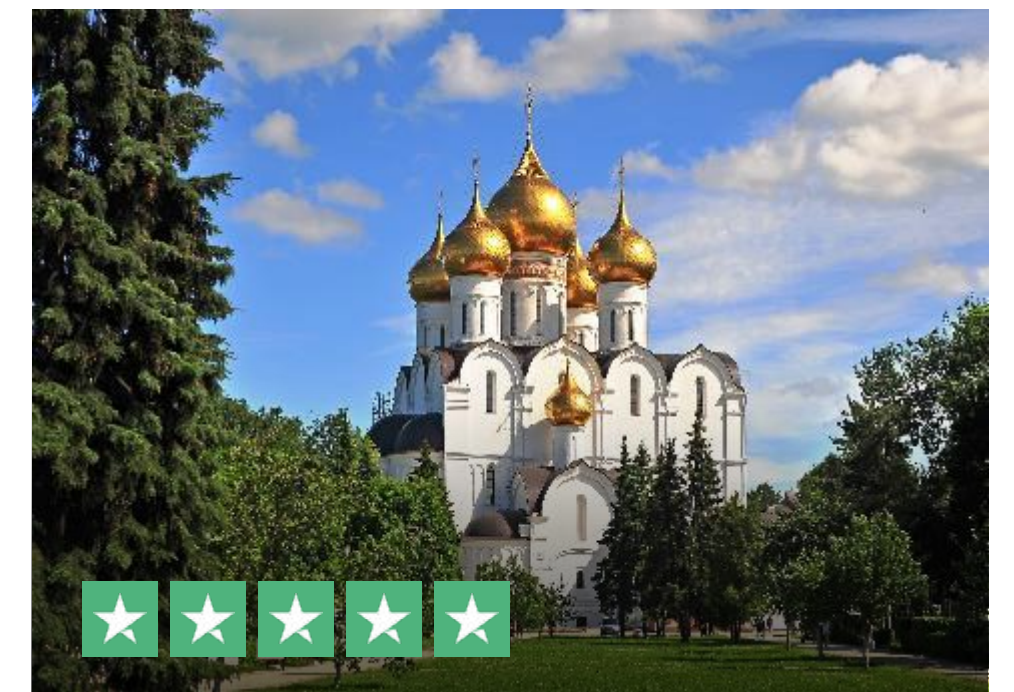
Chasing The Northern Lights

[View trip](#)



Kamchatka Adventures

[View trip](#)



Gems of the Golden Ring

[View trip](#)



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OPTIONAL TOURS

Ask your travel manager for more details

SAINT PETERSBURG

Day trip to Veliky Novgorod

- Transfer to Veliky Novgorod by train
- Guided tour including Kremlin, St. Sophia's Cathedral, "1000 years of Russia" monument
- Beautiful white stone ancient architecture
- Vitoslavlitsy museum of wooden architecture
- Return to St. Petersburg by train

USD 195 // AUD 295

per person (min. 2 ppl to go)

Mariinsky Ballet

- Ticket only (no guidance/transportation)

from USD 70 // AUD 120

per person

Cossack Show

- Ticket only (no guidance/transportation)

USD 85 // AUD 130

Faberge Tour with audio guide

- Ticket only (no guidance/with transportation)

USD 55 // AUD 85

per person (min. 2 ppl to go)