



RUSSIAN IMPRESSIONS TOUR

9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS
07th – 15th August 2010



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Day 1: Saturday 7th August – Moscow (D)

Airport transfer to **Marriott Tverskaya Hotel** (4*). After check in - **City Sightseeing tour**. See the main streets, the Bolshoi Theatre, The Russian White House, Cathedral of Christ the Savior and other major city sights.

You are invited to a **Welcome Cocktail** in the best Russian traditions & **Dinner** where you will meet your fellow travelers.

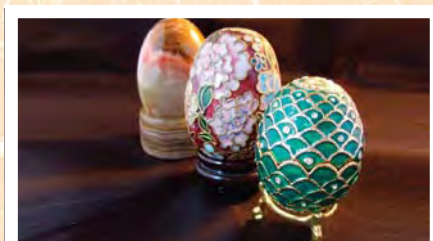


Day 2: Sunday 8th August – Moscow (B & L)

After breakfast you will be escorted on an in-depth **tour of Moscow Kremlin**, which houses exquisite palaces, presidential buildings, lovely churches including Russia's main cathedral - **the Assumption Cathedral** & fascinating **State Armory**, the oldest museum in Russia, which contains breathtaking crown jewels, gold-encrusted icons and exquisitely carved Czar Thrones.

Lunch in one of the best Moscow restaurants.

In the afternoon we will visit one of the most secret military facilities of Soviet Russia. After a ride on a rapid elevator 65 meters underground we will see **Secured Command Post "Tagansky"**.



Day 3: Monday 9th August – Moscow (B & L)

Experience the famous Moscow subway by taking **Metro-tour**. The **Moscow Metro** is considered the most beautiful underground railway station in the world. The stations are remarkable for their bold ornaments and unique architecture.

In the afternoon we will have a unique opportunity to **visit Moscovite's family household**. After an authentic Russian home-cooked meal, we will head to **Novodevichy Convent**. This complex was originally built as a fortified monastery surrounded by brick walls and 21 towers.

In the evening – optional show – the venue to be advised.



Day 4: Tuesday 10th August – Moscow (B)

Morning excursion to the **Tretyakov State Gallery** – one of the world's largest museums. This treasure house is displaying Russian art from the 11th century onwards through to today. The museum holds more than 50,000 works of art, paintings and sculptures. Wander through Tretyakov Park, dotted by bridges running across Moskva River and world famous sculptures created by Shemyakin.

Afternoon at your leisure.

Later in the evening we will be transferred to the Station for **overnight rail trip** to St. Petersburg.





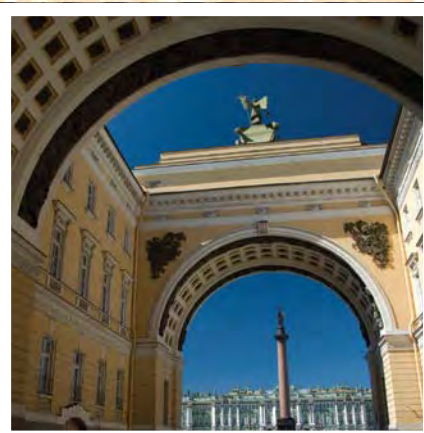
Day 5: Wednesday 11th August – St Petersburg (B)

Morning arrival into St Petersburg, transfer to luxurious **Petro Palace Hotel** (4*), located in the historic centre.

After breakfast, we will enjoy the sights of this remarkable city with a panoramic tour by **boat along the canals**. It is one of the unique ways to discover St. Petersburg, called "**Venice of the North**". We will pass magnificent architectural ensembles, lace like banisters, beautiful palaces facing the granite embankments, churches and cathedrals visible from a long way off.

After the boat tour we will visit the **Yusupov Palace**, the site where the legendary **Rasputin** was murdered. Built in the 1760's, the colonnaded building was acquired in 1830 by the aristocratic Yusupov family to house their magnificent collection of paintings. The inner rooms are remarkable for their rich décor. The exotic Moresque Drawing-room is a highlight of the palace.

In the evening - optional show – venue to be advised.



Day 6: Thursday 12th August – St Petersburg (B & L)

After breakfast we will take a tour to **Peter the Great's** favourite residence - **Peterhof** – a vast complex of palaces and parklands, water features, pavilions and sumptuous mansions. A fabulous **Great Cascade** of 173 fountains flows from the Palace along the Samson Canal towards the sea.

Lunch at the Peterhof's restaurant.

Later in the afternoon transfer to the hotel. Spend the rest of your day relaxing at your own pace.



Day 7: Friday 13th August – St. Petersburg (B & L)

After breakfast transfer to the **Emperor's Porcelain Factory**, which was founded by **Empress Elizabeth**, Peter the Great's daughter. **Dmitry Vinogradov**, a gifted Russian scientist discovered the secret of making porcelain and developed a special technique. We will join a **class lead by Master Artist** in the ancient art of the porcelain painting and decorate our own piece, which will be glazed and fired for us to take home as a priceless keepsake.

Lunch at the city restaurant.

After lunch we will enjoy many wonders of the elegant **Winter Palace** – the official residence of the Russian Tsars, which now houses the **Hermitage Museum**, one of the largest art & cultural museums in the world. This vast collection (about 65,000 works) includes some of history's most important artworks.

Later in the afternoon transfer to the hotel.

Day 8: Saturday 14th August – St. Petersburg (B, L & D)

After a 30 minute drive from St. Petersburg, we will find ourselves in the midst of a fairy tale, **the Russian Village** of Shuvalovka. We will visit the traditional Peasant Hut, learn traditional Russian crafts, try different sorts of 'ratafia' – a spicy vodka drawn on various berries and herbs by Old Russian recipes, accompanied with **Folklore Performance** and traditional toasts proposing.

Enjoy traditional Russian cuisine lunch.

If you'd like to feel like a real Russian – relax in **Russian Banya** (steam room). Highly recommended!

Transfer to the hotel for the **Farewell Dinner**.



Day 9: Sunday 15th August – St. Petersburg (B)

After breakfast, say goodbye to this exciting & elegant city as we transfer to the airport.

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch & D = Dinner

Pre and Post-tour extensions are available on request, as well as Airfares and Travel Insurance – all at very competitive rates.

