

Russian Rhapsody

Russia

Extension to Sweden



Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 6 overnight stays (8 with extension) in hotels with private bathrooms; plus 1 night couchette accommodation
- Complete European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time bilingual EF Tour Director
- Services of a Russian guide
- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides (3 with extension)
- 3 visits to special attractions (5 with extension)
- 2 EF walking tours (3 with extension)
- Circus or folklore performance
- Experiential learning: Cultural exchange with Russian students (seasonal); or a visit to the Ethnographic Museum

Highlights: Kremlin; Red Square; Hermitage/Winter Palace; Peter and Paul Fortress

With extension: Vasa Ship; Stockholm Town Hall

Optional: Armory Palace Museum; Petrodvorets; Drottningholm Palace (May-Sep) or Skansen Museum (Oct-Apr)—extension only



PBS

Learn before you go
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Drink in the beauty of St. Petersburg on your guided tour.

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Russia • Enjoy jet accommodations as you fly across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Moscow

Arrival in Moscow • Touch down in Moscow, the Russian capital. After clearing customs you are greeted by your Russian guide and your bilingual EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Day 3 Moscow

Guided sightseeing of Moscow • Guided sightseeing begins with a visit to Red Square. The city's nucleus, it is large enough to accommodate over two million people. Then marvel at the colorful unmatched cupolas of St. Basil's Cathedral. According to legend, Ivan the Terrible took drastic measures to ensure that the architect would never build anything more beautiful.

Visit to the Kremlin • You'll also enjoy a visit to the Kremlin. Discover a vast "hidden" world of palaces, museums, and cathedrals. At one time all of Moscow was contained within its 15th-century walls. Stalin allowed no one inside the grounds unless on official business. Walk across the tsarist Square of Cathedrals. Each cathedral had a particular purpose: one for marrying, one for burying, and a third for



Number of overnight stays in parentheses.

coronations. You can also see the world's largest bell, weighing over 200 tons. Its only flaw? It never worked.

Evening performance • Tonight you'll witness a spectacular performance by either a Russian folklore troupe or one of the country's world-class circuses! (Depending upon availability, the performance may take place in St. Petersburg.)

Day 4 Moscow

EF walking tour of Moscow • Stroll through the heart of Old Russia on our EF walking tour. Walk down the former Gorky Street (now Tverskaja Street), pass the Bolshoi Ballet, the now-defunct headquarters of the KGB, and see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Optional excursion to the Armory Palace • Opt to visit the Armory Palace, the oldest and most richly furnished museum of the Kremlin. Exhibits include gold and silver jewelry from the past millennium, Russian armor, and the breathtakingly ornate Fabergé eggs.

Day 5 Moscow • Night Train

Night train to St. Petersburg • After enjoying a free day for your own explorations, board a night train bound for St. Petersburg.

Day 6 Night Train • St. Petersburg

Arrival in St. Petersburg • Arrive in St. Petersburg, Russia's "Window on the West" and cradle of the 1917 Revolution. The city was formerly known as Leningrad, in honor of the Soviet Union's first premier.

Guided sightseeing of St. Petersburg • Peter the Great transformed St. Petersburg into a showplace of architecture and landscaping; encounter the magnificent results on your guided tour. Visit the Winter Palace (once the residence of Catherine the Great), where events spurred the final overthrow of the monarchy. Here you'll view the tsars' spectacular art collection at the vast Hermitage.

Visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress • You'll also visit the Peter and Paul Fortress, located on a small island on the Neva River. Trotsky, Gorky, and Dostoevsky were all imprisoned here. Peter the Great built this dungeon and ironically, one of the first prisoners was his son, who was put to death here in 1718. The fortress has since become the final resting place of all the tsars except Peter II.

Day 7 St. Petersburg

EF walking tour of St. Petersburg • Our EF walking tour takes you down Nevsky Prospekt, one of St. Petersburg's oldest streets. View a monument to Alexander Pushkin, Russia's most beloved poet, and see where Rasputin was murdered.

Experiential learning: Cultural exchange (seasonal) • Participate in a fascinating cultural exchange as you meet with a group of Russian students. Discuss current events and daily life, and discover what your contemporaries really think—about everything from international politics to popular culture! The exchange may take place in Moscow, and if school isn't in session, you'll visit the Ethnographic Museum instead.

Day 8 St. Petersburg

Optional excursion to Petrodvorets • This seasonal option takes you to the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland to visit Peter the Great's Petrodvorets, summer residence of the tsars. (Before June 1, you'll instead travel to Pushkin to visit Pushkin Palace or the beautiful castle of Pavlovsk, former home of Catherine the Great's son.)

Day 9 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

Day 9 St. Petersburg • Stockholm

Flight to Stockholm • Alternatively, your group can plan to extend its stay two nights in Sweden. Fly to the capital city of Stockholm, the City on Water.

EF walking tour of Stockholm • Our EF walking tour takes you through the heart of Stockholm's historic Old Town, founded in

1255 as a fortification at the entrance to Lake Mälaren. Archaeological relics excavated here date the presence of Vikings back to the 11th century. Stroll past the Stock Exchange and the square where Christian II massacred 80 opponents in the Stockholm Bloodbaths. Also see the Renaissance architecture of the Royal Palace and a famous statue of St. George slaying the dragon.

Day 10 Stockholm

Guided sightseeing of Stockholm • Your guided tour takes you past the Royal Opera House, the Parliament, the Royal Palace, and the oldest church in Stockholm (dating from 1306). Visit the town hall and admire the lavishly decorated Golden Hall where the annual Nobel Prize festivities take place.

Optional excursion to Drottningholm Palace (seasonal, May-September) • Journey by way of steamboat from Stockholm's harbor to beautiful Drottningholm Palace, located on Lake Mälaren. Still in use by the royal family, Drottningholm is a showcase for the various artistic and stylistic trends that have swept Europe and is surrounded by beautifully landscaped fountains and parks.

Optional excursion to Skansen (seasonal, October-April) • Opt to visit the world's first open-air museum, Skansen, founded in 1891. Skansen shows how Swedish people lived and worked in prior times. Actors and actresses in costume give an authentic feel to the history, as they demonstrate occupations such as weaving and spinning. Visit homes from the 18th and

Become a patron of the Russian arts.



19th centuries, or buy sweets from the market. The museum features over 150 historic buildings from all parts of the country, and also offers the Skansen Zoo, home to over 70 animals, including reindeer, seals, lynx and wolverines. After the museum, take a ferry ride through the waters of Stockholm to the Old Town, where you'll enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

Day 11 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

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