

Program "Russian Metropolises"
Moscow - St. Petersburg
7 days / 6 nights
29 December 2009 - 04 January 2010

D A Y 1

29 December 2009, Tuesday

Arrival in Moscow

Meet & greet by English speaking guide

Transfer to the **Cosmos **** hotel** with a short orientation tour en route

Check-in at the hotel

Dinner at the hotel restaurant

3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water

D A Y 2

30 December 2009, Wednesday

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Included

City tour with visit to Cathedral of Christ the Savior
Stops at St. Sofia Embankment of the Moskva-river;
The Bolshoy Stone Bridge; stops at Pushkin
Museum of Fine Arts; the new monument to Peter
the Great; Gorky Park; stop at New Maiden
Convent; observation platform of Sparrow (Lenin)
Hills; Viktory Park and Poklonnaya Hill with
World War II Memorial; Kutuzov Avenue; White
House.



You will come to **Red Square** by bus and walk to Red Square; have guided tour ; then you can go to the **GUM** themselves. During this portion of the tour they see (but do not go inside): *The Kremlin Walls, St. Basil Cathedral , the building of the Historical Museum, the church of Our Lady of Kazan (may go in on their own if they want), Iverskiye Gates.* They may decide to use this time to change money in GUM, use bathrooms etc. If so, they should be given more time. Drive through historical centre of the city (pass by *the House on the Embankment, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, Church of Our Saviour, Prechistenka Street, Bolshaya Pirogovskaya street.*

Then you go to the **Observation Platform of Sparrow (former Lenin) Hills**; get off the bus; have free time (20 - 30 minutes); taking photos, buying souvenirs. During this portion of the tour they also see *the main building of the Moscow State University.* Go back to the centre of the city by bus. Stop at the *Ukraine Hotel* for taking pictures of the **White House of Russia.**

Lunch at the restaurant
3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water



Visit to Kremlin with Cathedral

KREMLIN

The former residence of Russian czars, an architectural ensemble of unique beauty, which took shape between the 15-th and 20-th centuries. Cathedral Square - the center of the Kremlin with the 15-th century Assumption Cathedral, the main church of Russia, the 15-th century Annunciation Cathedral, the private church of Russian czars and the 16-th century Cathedral of the Archangel, the burial place of the czars. On the ground of the Kremlin there are famous Czar Cannon of the 16-th century and Czar Bell of the 18-th century.

Dinner at the hotel restaurant
3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water

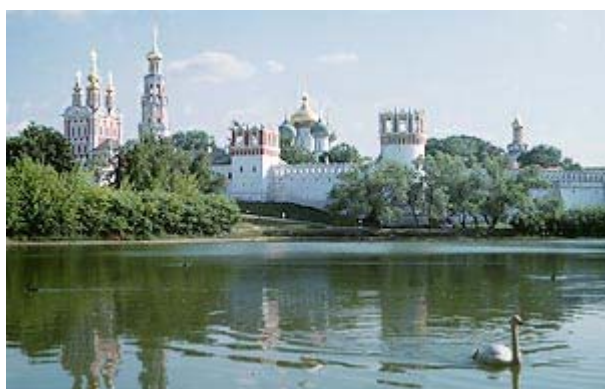
Overnight at the hotel

D A Y 3

31 December 2009, Thursday

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Included



New Maiden Convent of the 16th Century. Started by Father of Ivan the Terrible with the construction of a 5 dome Cathedral of Our Lady of Smolensk, it soon developed as the Convent for aristocratic women who preferred to take the veil or were made to do so by circumstances or tough orthodox rules, thus, wives could be sent there instead of divorce or after death of there sovereign husbands. Both first wife and the rebellious sister of Peter the Great were nuns at Novodevichy as it is called

in Russia. It is the most romantic and beautiful place of Moscow, its historical and architectural value can not be overestimated. The early Moscow baroque Belfry of the 17th century is rated to be the most beautiful in the country.

Lunch at the restaurant
3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water



Walking tour on Arbat Street and Metro riding

MOSCOW METRO (walking tour)

Metro with its stations decorated with marble, mosaics, stained glass panels and bronze sculptures looks like as art museum -- 1,5 hours;



NEW YEAR GALA DINNER at the COSMOS HOTEL.

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 4	01 January 2010, Friday	
	Buffet breakfast at the hotel	Included

Visit to Pushkin Fine Art Museum



PUSHKIN FINE ART MUSEUM

It was founded in 1912 by professor of Moscow University Tsvetaev. It has a fine collection of western European Art. Ancient Greece and Rome are also well represented though mostly by copies. The pride of museum is the collection of ancient Egyptian art collection by Golenishev, as well as famous Fayoum Portraits of the 1st-4th centuries A.D. The French art of the 18-20th centuries is fully represented and illustrates different schools and trends such as "barbosin" school, impressionism, postimpressionism, cubism and so.

Lunch at the restaurant

3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water

Free time in the city.

Meeting with the guide in the city center and transfer to the hotel Cosmos for dinner.

Dinner at the hotel restaurant

3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water

Transfer to the train station.

Overnight at the night train Moscow - St. Petersburg

DAY 5	02 January 2010, Saturday
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Arrival to St. Petersburg by overnight train from Moscow

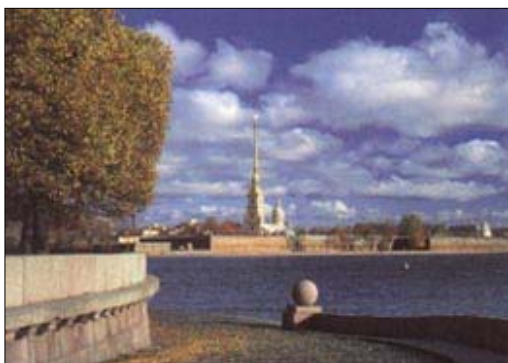
Meet & greet by English speaking guide

Transfer to the **Azimut hotel*** with a short orientation tour en route**

Check-in at the hotel

Keys are pre-arranged in the alphabetic order

**City tour with visit to St.Isaac's Cathedral and St.Peter and Paul Fortress,
Stops by Decembrists Square, Aurora**



A drive along Nevsky Prospect will bring you to the Peter and Paul Fortress for a guided tour. Originally constructed for military defense, the Fortress was never fired upon. It was later converted into a political prison. The Cathedral houses the tombs of the Tsars of Russia.

Continue along the Neva embankment where you will pass Cruiser Aurora, whose guns announced the October

Revolution of 1917. Pause outside the Smolny Convent to view the exquisite exterior and then drive to the St. Isaac's Cathedral. St.Isaac's Square with its splendid St. Isaac's Cathedral was designed by French architect Montferrand between 1818 and 1858. It has one of the largest domes in the world and is the most beautiful square in the city. You will visit this grand and lavishly decorated church that is now open as a museum.



Lunch at the restaurant

Additional in the evening: Enjoy a ballet or opera performance at Mariinsky

The Mariinsky (formerly the Kirov) is an exquisite building where one of the best ballet and opera theatres in the world is performing. The Mariinsky (formerly Kirov)

Ballet group is the leading one in Europe and of the most famous in the world. The best seats are reserved for the guests.



Dinner at the Hotel

Overnight at the hotel

D A Y 6	03 January, Sunday	
	Buffet breakfast at the hotel	Included
	Visit to the Hermitage	
	Visit to Pavlovsk. Riding on troika.	



Visit to the Hermitage Museum

The tour covers the highlights of the main collections including Italian Renaissance, Dutch art, Impressionists & Post-impressionists. It also includes the rooms which are not normally shown to the guests, like living quarters of the Royal family of the Romanovs'.

Lunch at the restaurant

Please see the official web-site of museum: www.hermitage.ru



PAVLOVSK

The residence of the family of Paul 1 - Pavlovsk-is located 5 km from Pushkin . In its rooms created by architects Cameron, Voronichin and Rossi, wonderful pieces of 19th century applied art, paintings of Russian and European masters that belonged to Paul 1 and his family are exhibited. Among them are some items made by Empress Maria Fedorovna.

**Farewell deluxe dinner with folklore performance at the "Podvorie" restaurant
3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water**

D A Y 7	04 January, Monday
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Buffet breakfast at the hotel Included

Transfer to the airport

We have to depart 2,5 h prior to the scheduled time of departure

Price greed

2 pax. (individual tour)	1 457 EURO per person (single suppl. - 169 Eu per tour)
10 pax group	823 EURO per person
20 pax group	695 EURO per person
40 pax group	635 EURO per person
Single supplement	82 Euro per person per tour

The price includes:

- ✓ Transfers Airport - Hotel - Train station - Hotel - Airport on a private car/coach with English-speaking guide.
- ✓ Accommodation at the hotel "Cosmos" 4* in Moscow for 3 nights (DBL/TW)
- ✓ Accommodation at the hotel "Azimut" 3* in St. Petersburg for 2 nights (DBL/TW)
- ✓ Full board incl. lunches at the local restaurants.
- ✓ Excursion program as per above itinerary incl. private car/coach, English-speaking guide and entrance fees.
- ✓ New Year Gala dinner at the Hotel "Cosmos"
- ✓ Train tickets for an overnight train Moscow-St. Petersburg, 2-nd class.