

**Program Two capitals & Golden Ring
Moscow –Golden Ring- St. Petersburg
11 days / 10 nights
30 December 2009 – 09 January 2010**

D A Y 1

30 December 2009, Wednesday

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

31 December 2009, Thursday

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Included

City tour

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 (15 - 20 minutes); then have free time (30 - 40 minutes); 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.*



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

The **next stop** to be made at **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 their 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

Then you will 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 *Ukraina Hotel* for taking pictures of the **White House of Russia**. Drive back to the hotel.

NEW YEAR GALA DINNER AT THE HOTEL "COSMOS"

Overnight at the hotel

D A Y 3

01 January, 2010, Friday

Buffet breakfast at the hotel
Visit to Kremlin with Cathedral

Included



KREMLIN

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

Visit to the Armoury Chamber and the Diamond Fund

THE ARMOURY CHAMBER

The treasury of Russian Czars with unique collections of gold and silver items of the 12-19th centuries, Russian arms and armory of the 12-16th centuries, the state regalia, thrones, carriages and coronation dressers of the 16-19th centuries, as well as ambassadorial gifts of the 16-19th centuries.



THE DIAMOND FUND

A unique collection of Gold and nuggets, diamonds from Siberia Crown Jewels of the 18-19th



platinum as well as centuries.

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

Overnight at the hotel

D A Y 4	02 January 2010, Saturday
----------------	----------------------------------

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

STATE TRETYAKOV ART GALLERY

It is a national museum of Russian founded in 1856 by Peotr Tretyakov. The collection with its 100 thousand exhibits includes 5,000 works of ancient Russian art and world famous paintings by Russian and Soviet artists as well as sculptures and examples of graphic art.



Dinner at the hotel restaurant

3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 5	03 January 2010, Sunday
--------------	--------------------------------

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Included

Visit to Zagorsk

ZAGORSK



The town 70 km away from Moscow. Has had many names including Posad (from 1782), Sergiev (from 1919), Zagorsk (from 1930), Sergiev Posad (since 1992).

Troitse Sergieva Lavra (monastery), founded in the 14th century by Sergei Kadonezhski is the historical centre of Zagorsk. For centuries it has been the largest religious and cultural centre of Russia. Such great masters of icons such as

Adnrey Rublev and Daniil Nickon to paint the most sacred place of the monastery - thhe Troitsky Cathedral (1422).

"Svyataya Troitsa" - is one of the most surprising masterpieces of iconic art. A. Rublev created it for the Cathedral. Now it is kept in The Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.

The history of the city is closely connected with the history of Lavra. Zagorsk is famous for its architectural monuments, such as the historico-architectural set of Troitse Sergieva Lavra. The Trinity Church (1422), the Dukhovskaya church (1635), the Assumption Cathedral (1559-1585), the Hospital Chambers with



its church of Zosima and Savvaty (1635-1637), the refectory with its church of Sergy (1686-92), the Tsar's Mansion built at end of the 17th century and Smolenskaya church (1746-1748). There are also some other churches in Zagorsk: Vvedenskaya (1547), Voznesenskaya (of the Ascension Day) built in 1766-1779. There are is the Moscow Theological Academy and the Theologikal college in Zagorsk.

The Civil buildings are very interesting too: the GuestHouse of the Monastery (1823) is in a classical style, Trade rows (1902), the museum reserve of History and Art (1920) and also the Toy museum (1918).

Lunch at the restaurant

3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water

Transfer to Vladimir to the **Golden Ring *** hotel**

Dinner at the hotel restaurant

3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water

Overnight at the hotel

D A Y 6

04 January 2010, Monday

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Included

City tour on Vladimir



You will see the Cathedral of the Assumption, the Cathedral of St. Demetrius (outside view), Golden Gates, you will visit the museum of Glass, Crystal and Varnish miniature.

Visit to Bogoljubovo - The Church of the Intercession of the Virgin - on - the Nerl

Transfer to Suzdal to the **"Pushkarskaya Sloboda" hotel.**

Lunch at the restaurant

3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water

Optional you have an opportunity to visit Russian sauna - "banja"

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



DAY 7	05 January 2010, Tuesday
--------------	---------------------------------

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Included

City tour on Suzdal

Suzdal, another town of the famous Russian Golden Ring. You will see the Kremlin, St. Euthymus Monastery of the Savior.



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

Transfer to Moscow to the railway station

Overnight at the night train Moscow - St. Petersburg

DAY 8	06 January 2010, Wednesday
--------------	-----------------------------------

Arrival to St. Petersburg by overnight train from Moscow

Meet & greet by English speaking guide

Porterage at the train station

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

Lunch at the restaurant with a folk show

3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water
Visit to Pavlovsk.



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.

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

D A Y 9	07 January 2010, Thursday
----------------	----------------------------------

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Included

Visit to the Hermitage

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'.



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

Lunch

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

Overnight at the hotel

D A Y 10	08 January 2010, Friday
-----------------	--------------------------------

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Included

Visit to Peter & Paul Fortress and St.Isaac's Cathedral



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

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. One of the most beautiful and highest buildings with a cupola 101,5 metres high. It is interesting not only for its architectural style and construction technology but also for its interior decorated with 150 paintings, 62 mosaics, sculptures of Russian and Italian sculptures.



**Lunch at the restaurant with a folk show
3 course, coffee/tea, mineral water**

PUSHKIN (TSARSKOE SELO)

You will visit the town of Pushkin. Its Catherine's Palace is famous most for the recently restored Amber Room. The parks of this place are also worth seeing. Located 29 km south of St.-Petersburg, the construction of the Catherine the Great started in 1717. A park in the French style was laid out around it. In the middle of the 18th century Tsarskoye selo became the official royal residence. Not far from the Catherine's palace there is the Lyceum where the great poet Alexander Pushkin studied. The Lyceum is open for visitors

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

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 11	09 January 2010, Saturday
---------------	----------------------------------

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)	2 170 EURO per person (single supplement - 240 EURO per tour)
10 pax group	1 140 EURO per person
20 pax group	985 EURO per person
40 pax group	875 EURO per person
Single supplement	165 EURO per person per tour

The price includes:

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