

RUSSIA

Baltics . Belarus . Central Asia . Eastern Europe . Georgia
Finland . Mongolia . Scandinavia . Trans-Siberian . Ukraine



2020





About us

Our Australian-owned and managed company was founded in 1987 and we continue to focus on the destinations we know best. Our knowledgeable team excels in tailor-made travel. So take advantage of our expertise and let us put together a journey of a lifetime for you.

News

Australian and New Zealand travellers are increasingly looking for new experiences, in particular, during the northern winter. In response to this, we have created some exciting new winter itineraries. For independent travellers wanting to expand their horizons, our Arctic & Karelia Winter Explorer tailor-made tour includes a hovercraft trip over the frozen Lake Onega to the tiny island of Kizhi and continues north of the Arctic Circle by rail to Murmansk, where you'll experience a true Russian winter. Unforgettable.

Jayne Thomas, Managing Director

Satisfied clients

"Just wanted to say 'thanks a million' for your efforts in planning our trip to Russia. It was sensational and everything went according to plan. The local guides were fantastic and the extra museums and tours were thoroughly enjoyable ... all in all, a trip of a lifetime!

I am very keen to recommend this trip to friends and to recommend your services to them as well. You were very professional and a pleasure to work with. I loved meeting the locals in Russia. They were very friendly and welcoming."

Karen, February 2019

"We have finally returned home from our trip. We had a GREAT time in Russia. So thank you so much for all your hard work in organising everything. The trip went perfectly. All of the private transfers and tours were fantastic, we loved that it was just us and the drivers or guides. They all went above and beyond to make the trip special. I will definitely recommend yourself and company to others."

Andrea and Rodney, July 2019

"Natasha at Eastern Europe Travel recently organised an incredible journey for my wife and I and two friends. We travelled from Beijing to St. Petersburg on the Trans-Mongolian Railway, the Trans-Siberian Railway and cruised through two canals, three rivers, four lakes and 17 locks. A trip to savour with first class accommodation and guides, seamlessly organised throughout by Natasha, to whom we offer our thanks and highest recommendation."

Bruce and Lesley, August 2019

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MS Volga Dream 2021 Early Bird Discount

Save \$250 per person when you book
and deposit by 31 Aug 2020.



MOSCOW

Tailor-made stopovers

Stopover - 4 days/3 nights

For travellers with limited time, this brief stopover includes Moscow's most important sights, including the amazing State Armoury Museum, with its unique collection of crown jewels, Fabergé eggs, carriages and much more. You will be accompanied by your own personal guide for all excursions (excluding your arrival and departure transfers).

Inclusions

- 3 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Sightseeing by car or on foot with your own **English speaking** guide
- City tour with visit to St. Basil's Cathedral
- Moscow Metro tour
- Kremlin & cathedral
- Armoury Museum

Business class cars utilised for 5-star packages

Stay awhile - 5 days/4 nights

A more leisurely stay, allowing you some free time to explore independently. Extra benefits include a visit to the opulent Eliseevsky food store, established exclusively for the nobility in 1901 and a walking tour of Park Zaryadye, an urban park with a floating bridge offering amazing views over Red Square.

Inclusions

- 4 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Sightseeing by car or on foot with your own **English speaking** guide
- City tour with visit to St. Basil's Cathedral, Eliseevsky food store & Park Zaryadye
- Moscow Metro tour
- Kremlin & cathedral
- Armoury Museum

Business class cars utilised for 5-star packages

Stopover & Stay awhile prices

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel	Stopover		Stay awhile		
	TwN	Sgl	TwN	Sgl	
★★★★★					
BUDAPEST	<i>from</i>	826	1426	982	1708
ASSAMBLEYA NIKITSKAYA	<i>from</i>	936	1654	1129	2013
KADASHEVSKAYA	<i>from</i>	1168	2207	1438	2749
★★★★★/★★★★★					
PETER I	<i>from</i>	1146	1971	1409	2435
STANDART	<i>from</i>	1286	2214	1595	2759
NATIONAL	<i>from</i>	1325	2308	1647	2884
NATIONAL (Kremlin view studio)	<i>from</i>	1710	3078	2160	3911
METROPOL	<i>from</i>	1350	2353	1680	2944
METROPOL (executive renovated room)	<i>from</i>	1741	3136	2202	3988
★★★★★					
BALTSCHUG KEMPINSKI	<i>from</i>	1261	2253	1517	2721
BALTSCHUG KEMPINSKI (grand deluxe Kremlin view)	<i>from</i>	1608	2947	1980	3647
FOUR SEASONS MOSCOW	<i>from</i>	2318	4516	2939	5759





Metro Elektrozavodskaya

MOSCOW

Hotels



(1) Budapest ★★★★★

2/18 Petrovskie linii

Popular superior 3-star traditional hotel, built in 1876. Ideal location near the Bolshoi Theatre and easy walking distance to Red Square. Rooms with A/C, Sat-TV, minibar, safe, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, lobby bar.

Metro Teatralnaya



(2) Assambleya Nikitskaya ★★★★★

12 Bolshaya Nikitskaya St.

Small boutique hotel in great location opposite the Tchaikovsky Conservatory and only 2 blocks from Red Square. 29 rooms with classic décor, A/C, flat screen TV, fridge, room service, free Wi-Fi. Lobby bar/breakfast room.

Metro Okhotny Ryad

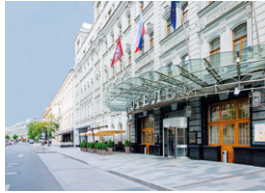


(3) Kadashevskaya ★★★★★

26 Kadashevskaya Embankment

Modern hotel housed within a historical building on the embankment in Zamoskvorechye district, 15 mins walk to Red Square. 35 elegant rooms with A/C, Sat-TV, safe, tea/coffee facilities, free Wi-Fi. Italian restaurant, laundry facilities.

Metro Tretyakovskaya

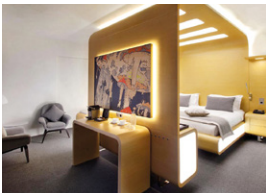
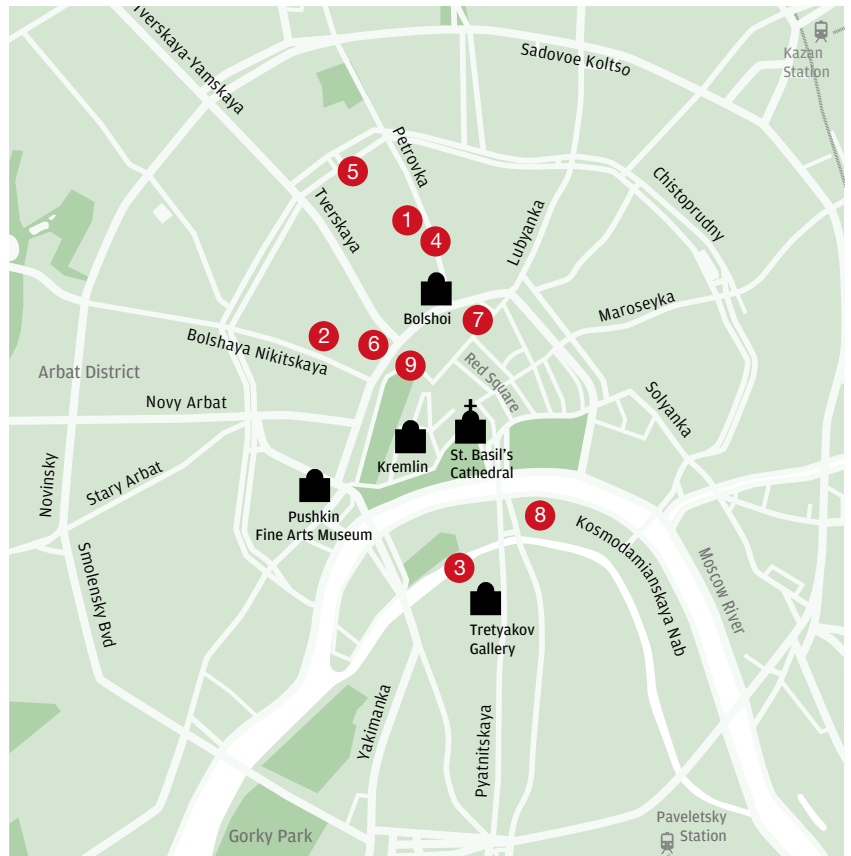


(4) Peter I ★★★★★

17 Neglinnaya St.

Housed in a 19th century building, this popular business & leisure hotel is centrally located, walking distance to Red Square. Spacious rooms with A/C, safe, minibar, Sat-TV, coffee/tea facilities, free Wi-Fi. Lobby bar, Romanov Restaurant, fitness centre & pool.

Metro Kuznetsky Most or Teatralnaya



(5) StandArt ★★★★★

2 Strastnoy Boulevard

Russia's first Design Hotel offers a space-themed, retro-futuristic vibe. The Art Nouveau building overlooks Pushkin Square, just off Tverskaya St. 105 rooms with A/C, safe, minibar, LED TV, tea/coffee facilities, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, rooftop terrace, spa, fitness centre.

Metro Tverskaya or Pushkinskaya



(6) National ★★★★★

15/1 Mokhovaya St.

Popular, historic hotel overlooking Red Square and the Kremlin. Traditionally furnished rooms with A/C, safe, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, bars, business centre, fitness centre, pool. We recommend Kremlin view studios - as pictured.

Metro Okhotny Ryad



(7) Metropol ★★★★★

2 Teatralny Proezd

Iconic Art Nouveau hotel, built in 1905. Great location overlooking Bolshoi Theatre and Red Square. Stunning public areas and excellent restaurants. Rooms with A/C, safe, TV, tea/coffee facilities, free Wi-Fi. Very popular.

Metro Ploshad Revolutsii



(8) Baltschug Kempinski ★★★★★

1 Baltschug St.

Stunning luxury hotel across the river facing the Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral. Spacious well-equipped rooms with A/C, iron/board, free Wi-Fi. Grand Deluxe Kremlin view rooms have arguably the best views in Moscow.

Metro Tretyakovskaya



(9) Four Seasons ★★★★★

2 Okhotny Ryad

Imposing luxury hotel in the former historic Moskva Hotel, just steps away from the Kremlin and Red Square. 180 spacious contemporary rooms with marble bathrooms, A/C, flat screen TV, iPad, safe, Nespresso machine. Restaurants, bars, spa, fitness centre, lap pool.

Metro Okhotny Ryad



Metro CSKA

MOSCOW

Privately escorted sightseeing

City Tour with Moscow Metro (5 hrs)

See the highlights of Moscow - Red Square, the Kremlin walls and Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. Travel underground for an amazing display of marble, mosaics, chandeliers and sculptures. Each metro station is unique. Established in 1935, the Moscow Metro is one of the most efficient transport systems in the world.

Daily.

City Tour with Metro and St. Basil's Cathedral (6.5 hrs)

See Moscow's major sights including a trip on the famous Metro and enter Moscow's most iconic building - St. Basil's Cathedral - commissioned by Ivan the Terrible in 1552 to celebrate the capture of the Tatar city of Kazan.

Daily except Wed.

Kremlin, Cathedral & Armoury (4 hrs)

Not to be missed! Visit the Kremlin grounds to see the Tsar's Bell and Cannon, Kremlin walls and towers. Enter a cathedral where the tsars were baptised, crowned and buried. Visit the State Armoury Museum, housing a unique collection of crown jewels, gems, thrones, carriages, costumes (including the wedding and coronation dresses worn by Catherine the Great), Fabergé Eggs and much more.

Daily except Thu.

Diamond Fund (2 hrs)

Housed within the Armoury Museum, the Diamond Fund is an exhibition of gems, jewellery and natural nuggets. Highlights of the collection include the Large Emperor's Crown and the Orlov Diamond which adorns the Imperial Sceptre and is the world's fourth-largest diamond. It was a gift to Catherine the Great from her favourite, Count Grigory Orlov. Your guide will accompany you from your hotel but the tour will be by audio-guide.

Daily except Thu.

Food Lovers' City Tour with Metro (7 hrs)

See Moscow's major landmarks by car and enjoy a tour of the amazing Moscow Metro. Gain an insight into the city's culinary history, joining the locals as they shop for fresh produce and gourmet items. Visit Moscow's oldest farmers' market where store holders from all over Russia and Central Asia display their amazing produce, inviting you to taste. Browse through the opulent Eliseevsky Food Store, established exclusively for the nobility in 1901 and nicknamed 'The Palace of Gluttony'. It remains a popular shopping stop for Muscovites to this day. A lunch break (at own expense) will be scheduled at Moscow's latest foodie haven, located in an old tram depot. It houses more than

200 stalls, artisan shops and restaurants, featuring food from all over the world.

Daily.

Moscow by Night (3 hrs)

Experience the fairy tale magic of Moscow by night. You will see all the major sights magnificently illuminated with many great photo opportunities.

Daily.

Moscow River Cruise (2.5 hrs)

Join the locals on a leisurely Moscow River cruise. Glide past Moscow's major landmarks - the Kremlin, Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Novodevichy Convent and Gorky Park. Choose from a local cruise operating May-Sep with your own guide or a Radisson Royal Cruise without guide which also operates at night and all year round with meals and drinks available on board.

Daily.

Tretyakov Art Gallery (3.5 hrs)

The Tretyakov Art Gallery collection is housed in two separate locations. The original Gallery features a collection of Russian art that traces the development of Russian culture, offering a rich and revealing insight into the history and attitude of the Russian people. The collection ranges from 11th century icons

to the politically charged canvases of Russia's favourite realist master, Ilya Repin. The impressive New Tretyakov Gallery is located at Krymsky Val (near Gorky Park) and showcases an outstanding exhibition of national 20th century art. Well-known artists such as Kandinsky, Chagall and Malevich are well represented.

Daily except Mon.

Pushkin Fine Arts Museum (3.5 hrs)

The drawcard of the Pushkin Fine Arts Museum is the Gallery of 19th and 20th century European and American Art. It houses an exceptional collection of French Impressionists, Post Impressionists and masters of the early 20th century.

Daily except Mon.

Novodevichy Convent & Cemetery (3.5 hrs)

Novodevichy Convent was founded in 1524. Apart from its religious significance, it served as a place of imprisonment for noblewomen. Many cultural and political figures are buried at the adjoining necropolis - the writers Chekhov and Gogol, singer Feodor Chaliapin, poet Mayakovsky, composer Shostakovich and political figures such as Krushchev and Yeltsin.

Daily except Tue & first Mon of month.

Convent is currently undergoing renovation and is clad in scaffolding. Completion date is unclear at this stage.

Kolomenskoe (3.5 hrs)

The former royal estate of Kolomenskoe is located on the ancient road leading to the town of Kolomna. The 4 sq. km of scenic parkland overlooks the steep banks of the Moskva River and was the favourite summer residence of Ivan the Terrible. This UNESCO-World Heritage Site houses an eclectic group of houses, churches and gates. Among the old wooden buildings on the grounds is Peter the Great's modest cabin, where he lived while supervising ship and fort building at Arkhangelsk.

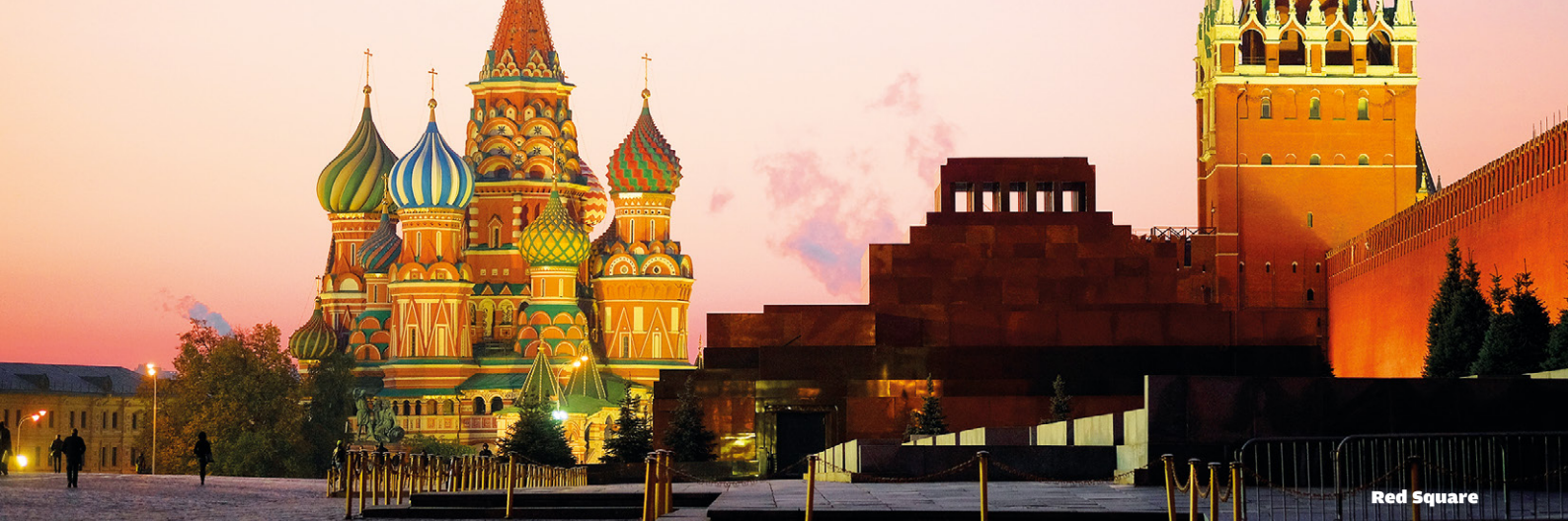
Daily except Mon.



Pelmeny Café



Fabergé, Rose Trellis Egg



Red Square

MOSCOW

Privately escorted sightseeing

Tsaritsyno Palace & Park (3 hrs)

Tsaritsyno Palace & Park Reserve is the only 18th century architectural ensemble of such dimensions in Russia, spanning 405 hectares. Catherine the Great fell in love with the natural beauty of the landscape and bought the land in 1775, commissioning the architect Vasily Bazhenov to construct a palace. In 1786 when it was almost complete, Catherine declared it to be unliveable, dismissed Bazhenov and ordered it to be torn down. The entire style of the building changed when his successor, Matvey Kazakov took over, but Catherine died in 1796, before the project could be completed. The project was left unfinished until 2007 when it was finally completed. The Palace houses a fascinating exhibition about the two different architectural projects and the extensive grounds include a pond, pavilions, decorative bridges and an English-style wood.

Daily except Mon.

Central Museum of Contemporary Russian History (3 hrs)

Housed in the opulent 18th century mansion that was once the premises of the exclusive English Club, the Central Museum of Contemporary Russian History covers Russia's recent and turbulent history from 1905 to the present. You will learn all

about the country's revolutionary, political, economic and cultural struggles including the Space Race and Perestroika.

Daily except Mon.

Bunker 42 (2.5 hrs)

Relive the tensions of the Cold War when you descend 65 metres below ground to the top-secret nuclear bunker 42, a unique underground facility located in the centre of Moscow. Opened as an emergency command post headquarters in 1951 and secretly connected to the Taganskaya metro station, this fascinating, once-secret military complex, bunker and Spare Long-Range Aviation Command Post complex is now a museum dedicated to the Cold War. You will join a Russian-speaking group with your guide/interpreter.

Daily.

Cosmonautics Museum (3.5 hrs)

A must for space devotees. The world's first satellite was sent into space from the Soviet Union on 4 October 1957. A contest was announced to design a monument to mark this historic event and five years later the huge monument was unveiled on Moscow's Prospekt Mira. In 1981, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first manned space flight, the base of the monument was opened as the Cosmonautics Memorial Base. It features satellite models,

original space suits, the interior of part of the Mir space station and documents from famous cosmonauts such as Yuri Gagarin.

Daily except Mon.

Monino Aviation Museum (6 hrs)

Monino Aviation Museum is one of the world's largest aviation museums, featuring over 170 aircraft including MiGs and Sukhois. This open-air museum is located 40 km east of Moscow on an airforce base. Tours are conducted by on-site guides.

Daily except Mon & Tue.

Sergiev Posad (6 hrs)

Travel by car, 75 km north of Moscow, to Sergiev Posad, one of the cluster of ancient towns, known as the Golden Ring. The UNESCO World Heritage-listed Trinity Lavra monastery complex was founded in the 14th century by St. Sergius of Radonezh. It is the spiritual bastion of Russian Orthodoxy and a popular place of pilgrimage. Boris Godunov is buried here - the only tsar not buried in the Kremlin or Peter & Paul Fortress in St. Petersburg.

Daily.

Sightseeing prices

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable Jan-Dec 2020.

Tour	1 per	2 per
City Tour with Metro	359	184
City Tour with Metro & St. Basil's Cathedral	465	255
Kremlin, Cathedral & Armoury (on foot)	326	201
Diamond Fund (on foot with audio-guide)	194	106
Food Lovers' City Tour with Metro	485	248
Moscow by Night	390	194
Moscow River Cruise (by metro with guide)	220	123
Moscow River Cruise - Radisson Flotilla (with transfers, no guide)	203	118
Tretyakov Art Gallery (icons & 18th-19th century)	331	177
Tretyakov Art Gallery (20th century)	331	177
Pushkin Fine Arts Museum	430	225
Novodevichy Convent & Cemetery	343	177
Kolomenskoe	324	170
Tsaritsyno	397	199
Museum of Contemporary Russian History (on foot/metro)	279	154
Bunker 42 (on foot/metro)	260	170
Cosmonautics Museum	324	170
Monino Aviation Museum	681	355
Sergiev Posad (fully escorted day trip)	567	284
Moscow Circus (with transfers)	203	130

■ Sightseeing is by car, with private English speaking guide, unless otherwise specified.
 ■ Duration of sightseeing tours is approximate and includes travelling time.





Suzdal, Pokrovsky Monastery

Suzdal/Vladimir & Rail services

Suzdal & Vladimir

Tailor-made tour - 3 days/2 nights

Inclusions

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast at Suzdal Inn
- Meals - 1 lunch
- Arrival/departure transfers by car with guide assistance where specified
- Economy class rail Moscow-Vladimir-Moscow
- Transportation by car Vladimir-Suzdal-Vladimir
- Sightseeing with local **English speaking** guides
- City tours of Suzdal & Vladimir; Bogolyubovo

Day 1 Moscow to Vladimir & Suzdal

You will be transferred to the rail station, with guide assistance, to board your train. Depart Moscow at 09:30 for your 1 hr 40 min train journey to Vladimir. Upon arrival, your local guide will take you on a city tour of Vladimir and its medieval cathedrals. You will also visit the 12th century Church of the Intercession on the Nerl at Bogolyubovo. After lunch, you have a short drive (36 km) to Suzdal and

check in to your centrally located hotel. Overnight Suzdal. **BL**

Day 2 Suzdal

After breakfast, you have a walking tour of Suzdal, one of the best preserved and most beautiful towns in Russia's ancient Golden Ring. You will see the Kremlin, Cathedral of the Nativity and enjoy a performance of bell-ringing at the Saviour Monastery of St. Euthymius. You will also

visit the open-air Museum of Wooden Architecture. Your afternoon is free to explore this unspoilt rural town at your leisure. Overnight Suzdal. **B**

Day 3 Suzdal to Vladimir & Moscow

This morning is free. You will be driven to Vladimir and assisted to board your train at 15:40. Arrive Moscow at 17:30 and transfer to your hotel or airport. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Jan-Dec 2020.

Departures	TwN	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Dec	827	1579

■ If you would like to return to Moscow by car and visit Sergiev Posad on the way, a supplement of \$366 per person twin and \$730 single applies.

Rail Services

Rail services can only be booked in conjunction with accommodation. Reservations are generally confirmed 90 days prior to travel and once purchased are non-refundable. The most frequently booked sectors are Helsinki to St. Petersburg and vice versa and Moscow-St. Petersburg-Moscow. These trains operate daily throughout the year with regular departures during the day.



Allegro high speed train



Sapsan high speed train

The high-speed Allegro train between Helsinki and St. Petersburg takes 3.5 hours. It offers Economy and First class seats. There is a restaurant car on the train.

The high-speed Sapsan train between Moscow and St. Petersburg takes approximately 4 hours and offers Economy, Business and First Class services. There is a restaurant car on the train.



Vladimir, St. Demetrius Cathedral



Kostroma, Ipatievsky Monastery

Golden Ring Highlights

Privately escorted tour - 5 days/4 nights

There is so much to see in the church-rich region known as the Golden Ring, located north-east of Moscow. Its ancient towns are considered to be the most picturesque in Russia. The jewel in the crown is undoubtedly Suzdal, which dates back to the 11th century and retains its sleepy rural atmosphere to this day. The town was bypassed during the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railway and later protected by the Soviet government, both of which limited development. Its fairy-tale setting with its rolling meadows, quiet streets and old wooden houses transports you back to another era. Your hotels have been hand-picked for their central location, character and comfort. We have tailored this itinerary to allow you some free time to enjoy this rural tranquillity, however if you have limited time then we can offer a 4 day/3 night option.

Inclusions

- 4 nights accommodation with breakfast in superior 3 & 4-star hotels
- Meals - 4 lunches
- Transportation by A/C car
- Escorted throughout by **English speaking** guide
- Sightseeing as specified with local **English speaking** guides - Vladimir, Bogolyubovo, Kostroma, Yaroslavl, Rostov Veliky, Pereslavl Zalesky, Sergiev Posad

Your hotels

- **Suzdal** - Suzdal Inn
- **Kostroma** - Ya
- **Yaroslavl** - Ring Premier

Day 1 Moscow to Vladimir & Suzdal

Depart Moscow for your 3-hour drive to Vladimir. After lunch at a local restaurant,

you have a sightseeing tour of Vladimir, one of the medieval capitals of Russia. Two of its cathedrals are World Heritage-listed. You will also visit the 12th century Church of the Intercession on the Nerl at Bogolyubovo. Continue by car for 36 km through rich farming lands to Suzdal. After hotel check-in, you have some free time to explore. Overnight Suzdal. **L**

Day 2 Suzdal

This morning you have a walking tour of Suzdal. You will see the Kremlin, Cathedral of the Nativity and enjoy a performance of bell-ringing at the Saviour Monastery of St. Euthymius. Your afternoon is at leisure to explore this delightful rural town. Overnight Suzdal. **B**

Day 3 Suzdal to Kostroma

After breakfast and hotel checkout, drive to Kostroma. After lunch at a local restaurant, you have a sightseeing tour of Kostroma, founded on the banks of the Volga River in

1152. Continue with a visit to the Ipatievsky Monastery, where the Romanov dynasty began in 1613. The rest of your day is free. Overnight Kostroma. **BL**

Day 4 Kostroma to Yaroslavl

After breakfast and hotel checkout, drive to Yaroslavl, an important Volga port founded in 1010 by Prince Yaroslav the Wise. Your city tour includes a visit to the 17th century Church of Elijah the Prophet with its exquisite frescoes. The remainder of your day is yours to explore independently. Overnight Yaroslavl. **BL**

Day 5 Yaroslavl to Rostov Veliky, Pereslavl Zalesky, Sergiev Posad & Moscow

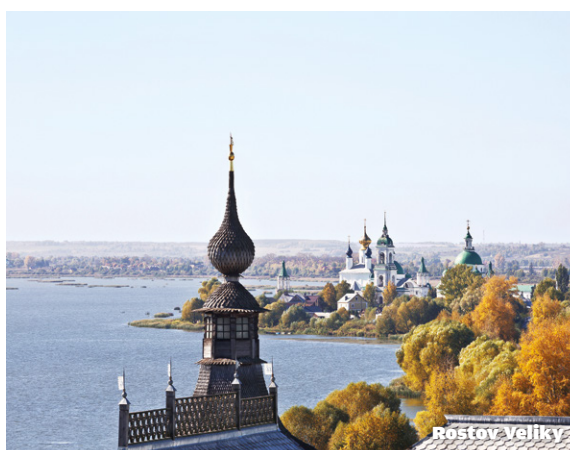
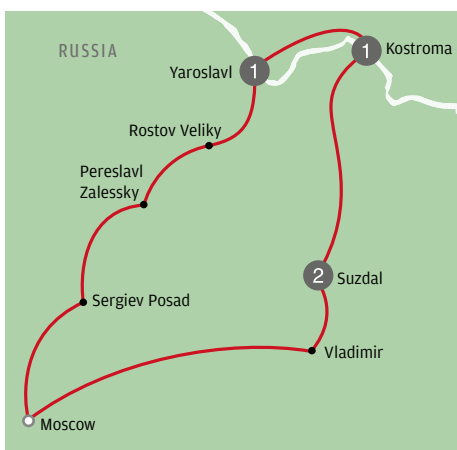
After breakfast, drive to Rostov Veliky, one of Russia's oldest and most beautiful towns. Your sightseeing includes the Kremlin, with its dramatic silver and black domes. After lunch, continue to Pereslavl Zalesky, a small provincial town on the banks of Lake

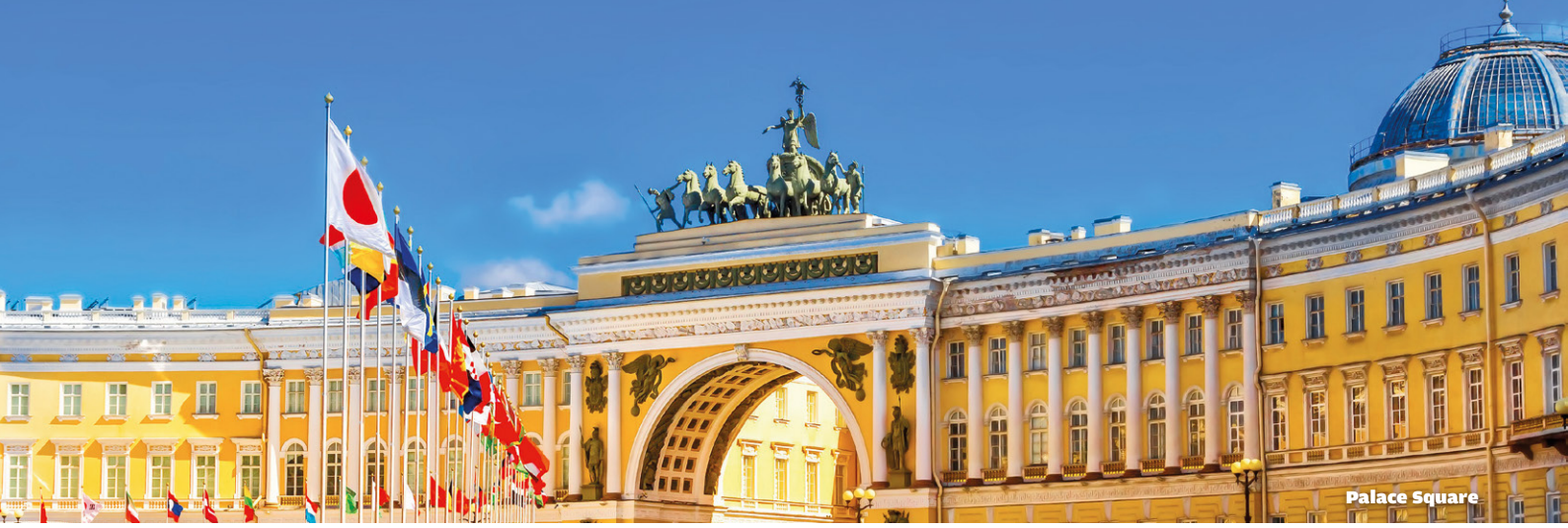
Pleshcheyevo. Founded by Yury Dolgoruky in 1152, the town was the birthplace of Alexander Nevsky, one of Russia's favourite heroes. Peter the Great built his first flotilla to sail on Lake Pleshcheyevo for his own amusement and it became the forerunner of the Russian fleet. You will have some time to soak up the rural tranquillity, as well as visiting the major landmarks. Then drive to Sergiev Posad to visit the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Trinity Monastery complex of St. Sergius. It is the spiritual heart of Russian Orthodoxy and a popular place of pilgrimage. Early evening arrival Moscow. **BL**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Jan-Dec 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Dec	3068	3406
If only one person on tour		5618





St. Petersburg

Tailor-made stopovers

Stopover - 4 days/3 nights

For travellers with limited time, this brief stopover includes St. Petersburg's most important sights. You will be accompanied by your own personal guide for all excursions (excluding your arrival and departure transfers).

Inclusions

- 3 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Sightseeing by car or on foot with your own **English speaking** guide
- City tour with visit to Peter & Paul Fortress
- Church on Spilt Blood
- Hermitage Museum on foot and by metro

Business class cars utilised for 5-star packages

Stay awhile - 6 days/5 nights

A more leisurely stay, allowing you some free time to explore independently. Extra benefits include your choice of an out-of-town excursion to Peterhof Palace and gardens, on the Gulf of Finland, or the magnificent Baroque Catherine's Palace at Pushkin. During summer months access to Catherine's Palace may be limited.

Inclusions

- 5 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Sightseeing by car or on foot with your own **English speaking** guide
- City tour with visit to Peter & Paul Fortress
- Church on Spilt Blood
- Hermitage Museum on foot and by metro
- Peterhof Palace & gardens or Catherine's Palace at Pushkin

Business class cars utilised for 5-star packages



Statue of Peter the Great

Stopover & Stay awhile prices

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel	Stopover		Stay awhile	
	Twn	Sgl	Twn	Sgl
★★★★/★★★★★				
DOSTOEVSKY	from 561	977	932	1591
CRONWELL INN STREMYANNAYA	from 635	1205	1054	1971
GOLDEN TRIANGLE	from 682	1214	1134	1985
★★★★/★★★★★				
PETRO PALACE	from 727	1345	1208	2204
DOMINA	from 878	1566	1459	2572
ANGLETERRE	from 936	1581	1557	2597
PUSHKA INN	from 977	1765	1625	2904
★★★★★				
BELMOND GRAND HOTEL EUROPE	from 939	1636	1791	3091
MOIKA 22 KEMPINSKI	from 1148	2003	1970	3422
ASTORIA	from 1148	1922	1730	2911
FOUR SEASONS LION PALACE	from 1765	3205	2994	5418



Peterhof



Hermitage Museum

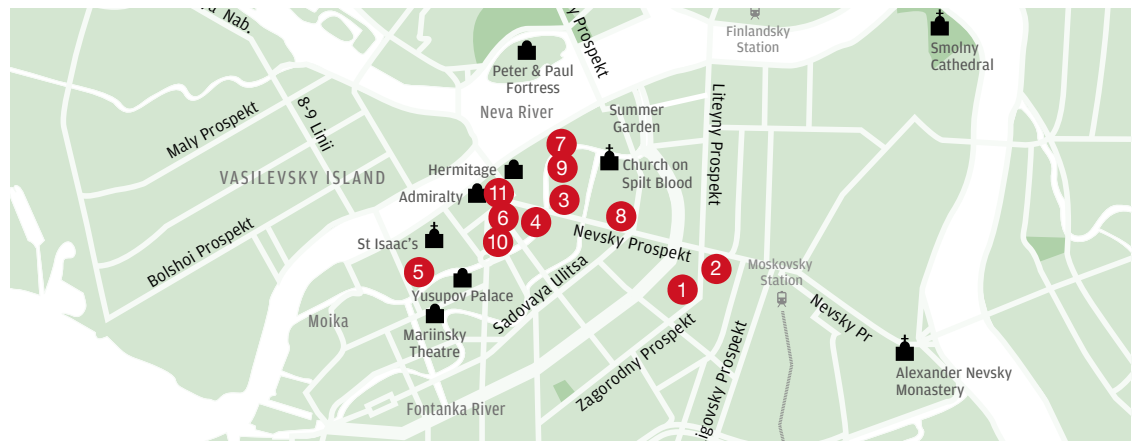
St. Petersburg

Hotels



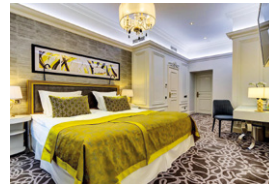
(1) Dostoevsky ★★ ★★
19 Vladimirsky Prospekt
 Tourist class hotel located in an historic neighbourhood within a shopping and business centre. Walking distance to all the major sights and just a minute's walk from the Dostoevskaya metro. Pleasant rooms with Sat-TV, free Wi-Fi, safe, minibar. Restaurant, bar.

Metro Dostoevskaya



(2) Cronwell Inn Stremyannaya ★★ ★★
18 Stremyannaya St.
 Popular small eco-friendly hotel in a quiet street just a few minutes walk from Nevsky Prospekt and 8 min walk to Metro Mayakovskaya. Comfortable rooms with A/C, safe, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, summer terrace, English Tea Room.

Metro Mayakovskaya



(3) Golden Triangle ★★ ★★ ★★
12 Bolshaya Konyushennaya St.
 Recently renovated, highly rated, boutique hotel in an ideal location 50m from Nevsky Prospekt and 5 min walk to the Hermitage. Stylish, individually designed rooms with A/C, safe, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant.

Metro Nevsky Prospekt



(4) Petro Palace ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★
14 Malaya Morskaya St.
 Popular hotel in great location just off St. Isaac's Square and close to the Hermitage. 194 spacious rooms with A/C, minibar, safe, free Wi-Fi, tea/coffee in room. Restaurant, bar, fitness centre, pool.

Metro Admiralteyskaya



(5) Domina ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★
99 Moika River Embankment
 Trendy hotel on the Moika embankment near St. Isaac's Cathedral. Spacious rooms featuring striking colour schemes with A/C, TV, safe, free Wi-Fi, tea/coffee. Restaurant, cocktail bar, fitness centre.

Metro Admiralteyskaya



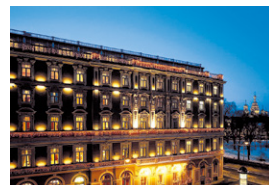
(6) Angleterre ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★
24 Malaya Morskaya St.
 Conveniently located stylish hotel in the city centre, overlooking St. Isaac's Cathedral. Elegant rooms with A/C, safe, free Wi-Fi, Health club, spa and pool. Italian restaurant and bar.

Metro Admiralteyskaya



(7) Pushka Inn ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★
14 Moika River Embankment
 Charming hotel located in an historic 19th century building, just minutes from the Hermitage Museum. 34 comfortable rooms with A/C, Sat-TV, fridge, free Wi-Fi, safe. Family rooms sleep up to 6. Restaurant.

Metro Nevsky Prospekt



(8) Belmond Grand Hotel Europe ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★
1/7 Mikhailovskaya St.
 One of the finest luxury hotels in Russia, just off Nevsky Prospekt. Built in 1820 and restored to its former splendour. Spacious, elegant rooms with safe, A/C, free Wi-Fi, tea/coffee in room. Restaurants and bars.

Metro Nevsky Prospekt



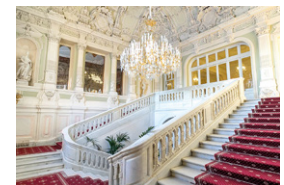
(9) Moika Kempinski ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★
22 Moika River Embankment
 Great location just off Palace Square, overlooking the Hermitage. Combines elegant tradition with 5-star amenities. Rooms decorated in classical style with free Wi-Fi, A/C, safe. Bar, restaurants, tea room, wine cellar.

Metro Admiralteyskaya



(10) Astoria ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★
39 Bolshaya Morskaya St.
 Historic hotel located next to St. Isaac's Cathedral. Opened in 1912, this Art Nouveau hotel has been beautifully restored. Rooms feature antiques and contemporary design with A/C, free Wi-Fi, marble bathrooms. Restaurant, bar, lounge.

Metro Admiralteyskaya



(11) Four Seasons Lion Palace ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★
1 Voznesensky Prospekt
 Housed in a former royal palace, this opulent hotel is located just off St. Isaac's Square. Spacious, luxurious rooms with marble bathrooms, A/C, safe, DVD player, free Wi-Fi. Two restaurants, bar, spa.

Metro Admiralteyskaya



Divorced Palace Bridge and Peter & Paul Cathedral

St. Petersburg

Privately escorted sightseeing & shore excursions

City Tour with Peter & Paul Fortress (3.5 hrs)

Drive along Nevsky Prospekt, lined with 18th century palaces, fashionable shops, restaurants and cafés. Pass the Church on Spilt Blood which commemorates the location where Tsar Alexander II was assassinated in 1881, the golden domed St. Isaac's Cathedral and Palace Square featuring the Hermitage Museum. After your city tour, visit Peter & Paul Fortress, the site chosen by Peter the Great in 1703 as the foundation of St. Petersburg. Peter & Paul Fortress is also the burial place of the Romanovs.

Daily except Wed, 16 Sep-30 Apr.

City Tour with Church of the Saviour on Spilt Blood (5 hrs)

Combine your city tour with a visit to the Church of the Saviour on Spilt Blood, one of the city's most striking and beautiful landmarks, reminiscent of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow. The church was built on the spot where Tsar Alexander II was mortally wounded by a grenade thrown by an anarchist conspirator in 1881. The interior is decorated with magnificent mosaics, each representing a biblical theme.

Daily except Wed.

Peter & Paul Fortress (2.5 hrs)

Peter & Paul Fortress was the first building constructed in St. Petersburg, in May 1703. It houses the Cathedral of Peter and Paul where all the tsars are buried from Peter the Great to the last Tsar, Nicholas II. The bell tower of the cathedral makes it the tallest building in St. Petersburg. The museums in the complex examine the history of the city and the fortress itself.

Daily except Wed, 16 Sep-30 Apr.

Hermitage Museum (4 hrs)

The Hermitage Museum is a must for art lovers! One of the world's greatest museums. Founded in 1764, the Hermitage Museum occupies five buildings on the Neva Embankment, including the Winter Palace. It currently boasts a collection of more than 3 million items. The Impressionists are no longer exhibited in the main building. They can be viewed separately, at a small additional cost, in the General Staff Building, which is located on the opposite side of Palace Square.

Daily except Mon.

Hermitage & Treasury #1 (5 hrs)

There are two 'Treasure Galleries' within the Hermitage Museum. The most popular is Treasure Gallery #1 which houses items

of jewellery collected by the tsars from the 16th to the 19th centuries, including precious gifts from Western Europe and a collection of Scythian and Greek gold from the northern Caucasus and southern Russia, dating from the 4th to the 2nd centuries BC. (The focus of Treasure Gallery #2 is mainly Scythian and Greek Gold).

Daily except Mon.

St. Isaac's Cathedral (1.5 hrs)

St. Isaac's Cathedral is the largest church in Russia. It was completed in the middle of the 19th century, after forty years of construction. Its gilded dome, the fourth largest in the world, soars above the St. Petersburg skyline. The vast interior can accommodate up to 10,000 people and is adorned with marble, jasper, malachite, hundreds of reliefs and statues and 112 solid granite columns. The observation platform on the colonnade offers breathtaking views of St. Petersburg.

Daily except Wed.

Neva & Canals Cruise (2.5 hrs)

View St. Petersburg from a different perspective during a leisurely river and canal cruise. Peter the Great's 'Amsterdam of the North' was built on 42 islands with 70 rivers and canals winding their way

through the city, passing under more than 400 bridges. You'll pass granite embankments with their piers and slipways, 18th and 19th century palaces and the major architectural landmarks of the city.

Daily May-Oct.

Fabergé Museum (1.5 hrs)

The world's largest collection of Fabergé objects d'art opened in St. Petersburg in the Shuvalov Palace in November 2013. The founder, Russian oligarch Victor Vekselberg, is dedicated to repatriating Russian works of art sold by the Bolsheviks in the 1920s and making them accessible to the public. The museum houses nine Imperial Easter eggs, including the showpiece Imperial Coronation Easter egg. Your guide will accompany you to and from your hotel, but the tour will be by audio-guide.

Daily.

Russian Museum (2.5 hrs)

Housed in the Mikhailovsky Palace, the museum was opened in 1898 by Nicholas II. It has the finest collection of Russian art in the world, tracing its development through the centuries - from Russian iconography to the avant-garde and Social Realism.

Daily except Tue.



St. Isaac's Square

Visa-free shore excursions for cruise ship passengers

Our shore excursions are visa-free for cruise ship passengers docking in St. Petersburg for less than 72 hours. We have a selection of 1, 2 and 3 day itineraries in small groups of maximum 16 passengers. If you prefer something more personalised and flexible, we can tailor-make an itinerary to suit your needs, with your own private guide and driver.





Vasilievsky Island

St. Petersburg

Privately escorted sightseeing

Yusupov Palace & Rasputin (3 hrs)

This opulent residence belonged to the wealthy and aristocratic Yusupov family from the mid-18th century until the Revolution. It is notorious for being the site of Rasputin's murder in 1916 by a small group of the city's noble elite, including Prince Felix Yusupov. The palace stands on the Moika Canal, into which Rasputin was ultimately thrown, after allegedly being poisoned and shot.

Daily.

Artillery Museum (2.5 hrs)

Founded in 1703 and considered one of the best military museums in the world, the Artillery Museum features collections of weapons, uniforms, artillery equipment and exhibits from WWII and the Cold War.

Daily except Mon, Tue & last Thu of month.

Peterhof Palace & Park (5 hrs)

Peterhof Palace, also known as Petrodvorets, is located 20 km west of St. Petersburg, on the Gulf of Finland. It was commissioned as a summer palace by Peter the Great to rival Versailles. In summer months, the main attractions are the spectacular cascading fountains and golden statues. We recommend arriving by hydrofoil for the most dramatic

introduction to this magnificent palace-park complex.

Daily except Mon & last Tue of month.

Pushkin & Catherine's Palace (5 hrs)

24 km south of St. Petersburg lies the town of Pushkin, known as Tsars' Village until 1917. It was the residence of the tsars from the 18th century to the end of the monarchy. Visit Catherine's Palace, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture. More than 100 kilograms of gold were used to gild the stucco façade. The famous Amber Room, plundered during WWII, has now been restored and should not be missed.

Daily except Tue & last Mon of month.

The palace is currently experiencing an unprecedented number of visitors during the summer months and availability can be restricted and subject to change.

Pavlovsk (5 hrs)

A few kilometres from Pushkin is Pavlovsk Palace, the former residence of Emperor Paul I. This excursion can be comfortably combined with Pushkin. Catherine the Great commissioned the Scottish architect Charles Cameron to build the palace in Classic style as a present to her son Paul.

The classic simplicity is in stark contrast to Peterhof and Catherine's Palace.

Daily except Fri & first Mon of month.

Veliky Novgorod (10 hrs)

This is a full day trip by car (approximately 3 hrs each way) to Veliky Novgorod, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of

Russia's oldest and most important historic cities, situated on the Volkhov River.

See the ancient Kremlin, the functioning Yurjev Monastery, the Open-air Museum of Wooden Architecture and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Daily.

■ Overnight stays also available.

Sightseeing prices

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable Jan-Dec 2020.

Tour	1 per	2 per
City tour with Peter & Paul Fortress	241	128
City Tour with Church on Spilt Blood	279	147
Peter & Paul Fortress	184	106
Hermitage Museum (on foot/metro)	142	83
Hermitage & Treasury (on foot/metro)	331	154
St. Isaac's Cathedral (on foot/metro)	118	80
Neva & Canals Cruise	227	123
Faberge Museum (on foot/metro with audio-guide)	142	106
Russian Museum (on foot/metro)	137	76
Yusupov Palace	269	135
Artillery Museum	319	165
Peterhof Palace & Park	362	217
Peterhof Palace & Park (one way by hydrofoil)	409	264
Pushkin & Catherine's Palace	355	213
Pavlovsk	284	151
Pushkin & Pavlovsk (6 hrs)	425	255
Veliky Novgorod (fully escorted day trip)	1035	532
Folklore at Nikolaevsky Palace (with transfers & refreshments)	199	142

- Sightseeing is by car, with your own English speaking guide, unless otherwise specified.
- Duration of sightseeing is approximate and includes travelling time.

Theatres & concerts

Enrich your stay with a ballet, opera, concert or folk performance. In conjunction with accommodation, we can book tickets to various theatres including the Mariinsky, Mikhailovsky and Maly theatres. Enjoy a folklore performance with refreshments in the 19th century Nikolaevsky Palace with car transfers included.



Fabergé Egg



Catherine's Palace



Vasilievsky island

St. Petersburg in Style

Tailor-made tour - 5 days/4 nights

This tailor-made independent tour is designed for discerning travellers looking for a more in-depth experience of St. Petersburg's cultural attractions whilst seeking an insight into Russia's culinary scene. You'll enjoy fine dining at the Stroganov Palace (where Beef Stroganov was invented), relax at hand-picked informal restaurants where the locals eat, visit a farmers market and have coffee and cake at the Art Nouveau Eliseevsky food store. Cultural highlights include a visit to the Hermitage Museum - one of the world's greatest, and the fabulous Fabergé Museum dedicated to the works of the great jeweller Carl Fabergé.

Inclusions

- 4 nights accommodation with breakfast in deluxe room at 5-star hotel
- Meals - 1 lunch, 2 dinners, coffee & cake at Eliseevsky food store
- Arrival/departure transfers by business class car
- Sightseeing as specified by business class car and on foot with your own English speaking guide
- City tour with visit to farmers market, entrance to Church on Spilt Blood & canal cruise (May-Oct)
- Hermitage Museum and French Impressionists
- Fabergé Museum
- Peter & Paul Fortress
- Peterhof Palace & Gardens or Catherine's Palace at Pushkin*

Your hotel

■ **Belmond Grand Hotel Europe**
One of the finest luxury hotels in Russia, the iconic Belmond Grand Hotel Europe is ideally positioned on Nevsky Prospekt, adjacent to Arts Square. The hotel has played a central role in the history of St. Petersburg since 1820. Its Art Nouveau décor, stained glass and plush fabrics offer a sense of grandeur from a bygone era. We use the Deluxe rooms.

Romanovs. Dinner tonight is at a Georgian restaurant. Overnight St. Petersburg. **BD**

Day 4 St. Petersburg

Today, choose between two excursions - Peterhof on the Gulf of Finland, or Pushkin, known as Tsars' Village before the Revolution. Peterhof was commissioned by Peter the Great to rival Versailles. Its summer highlights are its beautiful gardens, fountains and gilded statues. At Pushkin you visit Catherine's Palace, the summer residence of the tsars from the early 18th century to 1917. One of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture, it houses the famous Amber Room. Tonight's special dinner is at the opulent Russian Empire Restaurant in the Stroganov Palace. Overnight St. Petersburg. **BD**

Day 5 St. Petersburg

Tour services end after breakfast with your transfer to the airport or rail station - or extend your stay. **B**

Day 1 St. Petersburg

Arrive St. Petersburg. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight St. Petersburg.

Today's sightseeing concludes with a relaxing canal cruise to view the city from a refreshingly different perspective. Overnight St. Petersburg. **BL**

Building opposite, to view the collection. Time to relax over a coffee and cake at the Art Nouveau Eliseevsky Café and food store. Then visit the fabulous Fabergé Museum, housing the world's largest collection of Fabergé artefacts, including the nine Imperial Easter Eggs. Continue with a visit to Peter & Paul Fortress, the original citadel of St. Petersburg, founded by Peter the Great in 1703 and the burial place of the

Day 2 St. Petersburg

After breakfast, your tour of this beautiful northern city covers the major landmarks including a visit to a local farmers market. After lunch at a café popular with locals, visit the Church on Spilt Blood.

Day 3 St. Petersburg

This morning, you have a guided tour of the magnificent Hermitage Museum, founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great. Fans of the French Impressionists may continue the tour to the General Staff



State Hermitage Museum



Fabergé egg

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Daily departures Jan-Dec 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Mar, 16 Oct-31 Dec	2443	4161
1 Apr-15 May, 16 Jul-31 Aug, 1-15 Oct	2600	4475
16 May-15 Jul	3546	6295
1-30 Sep	2947	5096

*Catherine's Palace has been experiencing an unprecedented volume of visitors during the summer months; therefore availability may be restricted or subject to schedule change.



St. Petersburg, Bank Bridge

Russia a la Carte

Tailor-made tour - 8 days/7 nights

This suggested itinerary offers you the flexibility of being able to choose your own departure date and standard of hotel. We have included the 'must see' sights, but have allowed free time to explore independently or to include additional sights. The itinerary can be taken in reverse and can be tailor-made to your own personalised design. If you arrange your dates to coincide with a weekend in Moscow you can take advantage of the special weekend rates offered by many Moscow hotels. For a more leisurely experience, why not extend your stay in both cities or spend a few days in the unspoilt cities of the Golden Ring towns (see pages 8 & 9).

Inclusions

- 7 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Meals - 1 lunch at Café Pushkin, 1 dinner at the Stroganov Palace
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Business class Sapsan train Moscow-St. Petersburg
- Sightseeing by car and on foot with your own **English speaking guides**
- Moscow - City tour with Metro, St. Basil's Cathedral, Park Zaryadye, Kremlin & Cathedral, Armoury Museum, Eliseevsky food store
- St. Petersburg - City tour with Church on Spilt Blood, Peter & Paul Fortress, Fabergé Museum, Hermitage Museum, choice of Peterhof or Catherine's Palace at Pushkin*

Business class cars utilised for 5-star packages

** Catherine's Palace is currently experiencing an unprecedented number of visitors during the summer months and availability may be restricted and subject to change.*

Day 1 Moscow

Arrive Moscow. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Moscow.

Day 2 Moscow

Your city tour covers the major landmarks - Red Square, Cathedral of Christ the Saviour and a panoramic view of Moscow from Sparrow Hills. You will see the most impressive stations of the Moscow Metro, visit St. Basil's Cathedral and enjoy

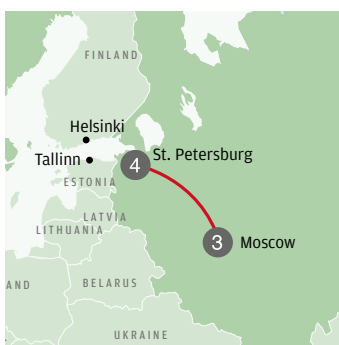
excellent photo-opportunities from the viewing point in Park Zaryadye near Red Square. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 3 Moscow

After breakfast, visit the Kremlin grounds. You will see Cathedral Square, the political and governmental buildings and the Kremlin walls and towers. Visit the State Armoury - Russia's oldest museum. It houses a unique collection of crown jewels, gems, thrones, carriages, Fabergé Eggs and more. Browse through the opulent Eliseevsky Food store, before enjoying a leisurely lunch at Café Pushkin, acclaimed for its classic Russian cuisine and 19th century ambience. Overnight Moscow. **BL**

Day 4 Moscow to St. Petersburg

Free morning. This afternoon, board your train to St. Petersburg, founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, and enjoy the scenery on the way. Evening arrival St. Petersburg where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**



Day 5 St. Petersburg

Morning city tour of the highlights of this former imperial capital, including a visit to Peter & Paul Fortress, the site chosen by Peter the Great in 1703 as the foundation of St. Petersburg. Continue with a guided tour of the fabulous Fabergé Museum which houses nine Imperial Easter Eggs. Your tour concludes with a visit to St. Petersburg's most iconic site, the Church of the Saviour on Spilt Blood. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 6 St. Petersburg

After breakfast, choose from two excursions - Peterhof (Petrodvorets) on the Gulf of Finland or head 30 km south to the town of Pushkin, which was known as Tsars' Village until 1917. Peterhof was commissioned by Peter the Great to rival Versailles. In summer months, the grounds

feature cascading fountains and gilded statues. At Pushkin, the residence of the tsars from the beginning of the 18th century to 1917, you'll visit Catherine's Palace, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture.* Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 7 St. Petersburg

Morning visit to the State Hermitage Museum, the second-largest art museum in the world, founded in 1764. Your afternoon is free to explore independently. Dinner this evening is in the stunning Russian Empire restaurant, housed inside the Stroganov Palace, where Beef Stroganov was invented. Overnight St. Petersburg. **BD**

Day 8 St. Petersburg

Your tour services end after breakfast with a transfer to the railway station or airport. **B**

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Daily departures 2020. (M) = Moscow, (SPB) = St. Petersburg.

Hotel	Twn	Sgl
(M) BUDAPEST (SPB) GOLDEN TRIANGLE (superior room)	from 2513	3970
(M) PETER I (SPB) PETRO PALACE	from 2852	4610
(M) METROPOL (SPB) ANGLETERRE	from 3335	5305
(M) BALTSCHUG KEMPINSKI (SPB) BELMOND GRAND HOTEL EUROPE	from 3390	5530
(M) NATIONAL (Kremlin view studio) (SPB) BELMOND GRAND HOTEL EUROPE (deluxe room)	from 4147	6972
(M) FOUR SEASONS HOTEL MOSCOW (SPB) FOUR SEASONS LION PALACE	from 5405	9672

■ Other hotel combinations available. Hotel descriptions - see pages 5 & 11.



Moscow, Cathedral of Christ the Saviour

Imperial Capitals & the Golden Ring

Tailor-made tour - 10 days/9 nights

This itinerary combines the must-see sights of Moscow and St. Petersburg with the Golden Ring town of Suzdal, one of Russia's most beautiful and best preserved rural towns. The pace is unhurried and the itinerary and inclusions can be tailored to your personal requirements.

Inclusions

- 9 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Meals - 2 lunches (1 at Café Pushkin), 1 dinner at Stroganov Palace
- Arrival/departure transfers by car throughout, with guide assistance where specified
- Economy class train Moscow-Vladimir
- Business class train Vladimir-St. Petersburg
- Sightseeing as specified by car & on foot with local **English speaking** guides
- Moscow - City tour with St. Basil's Cathedral, Metro, Kremlin & Armoury Museum
- Vladimir & Suzdal - City tours, Bogolyubovo
- St. Petersburg - City tour with Church on Spilt Blood, Fabergé Museum, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum, Peterhof Palace & Gardens

Business class cars utilised in Moscow & St. Petersburg for 5-star package

Your hotels

★★★★★

- **Moscow** - Budapest
- **Suzdal** - Suzdal Inn
- **St. Petersburg** - Golden Triangle (*superior room*)

★★★★★

- **Moscow** - Peter I
- **Suzdal** - Suzdal Inn (3.5-star)
- **St. Petersburg** - Petro Palace

★★★★★

- **Moscow** - Baltshug Kempinski (*grand deluxe*)
- **Suzdal** - Suzdal Inn (3.5-star) (*junior suite*)
- **St. Petersburg** - Belmond Grand Hotel Europe (*deluxe room*)

Day 1 Moscow

Independent arrival Moscow where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Moscow.

Day 2 Moscow

Morning city tour of Moscow's highlights, including a visit to St. Basil's Cathedral and a tour of the incredible Moscow Metro.



Your afternoon is at leisure. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 3 Moscow

Morning walking tour of the Kremlin grounds and a cathedral. Tour the State Armoury Museum with its unique collection of the tsars' treasures, and then enjoy a leisurely lunch at Café Pushkin, acclaimed for its classic Russian cuisine and 19th century ambience. Afternoon at leisure to explore Moscow independently. Overnight Moscow. **BL**

Day 4 Moscow to Vladimir & Suzdal

After breakfast, transfer to the rail station with guide assistance for your 2-hour train journey to Vladimir, departing at 09:30. After lunch at a local restaurant, you have a city tour of Vladimir which includes the 12th century Church of the Intercession on the Nerl at Bogolyubovo. Short car transfer to Suzdal. Overnight Suzdal. **BL**

Day 5 Suzdal

This morning, you have a sightseeing tour of Suzdal. You will see the Kremlin, Cathedral of the Nativity and enjoy a performance of bell-ringing at the Saviour Monastery of St. Euthymius. The afternoon is free to explore independently. Overnight Suzdal. **B**

Day 6 Suzdal to Vladimir & St. Petersburg

Early morning transfer to Vladimir with guide assistance to catch your high-speed train at 07:04 bound for St. Petersburg. Arrive St. Petersburg at 13:20. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Your afternoon is free. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 7 St. Petersburg

Your morning city tour introduces you to the major landmarks of this beautiful

northern city. You will also visit the Church on Spilt Blood, Peter & Paul Fortress and the fabulous Fabergé Museum with a collection that includes nine Imperial Easter Eggs. Afternoon free. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 8 St. Petersburg

This morning, you will visit the State Hermitage Museum. You may stay on at the Hermitage after your guided tour has ended. Dinner this evening is in the stunning Russian Empire restaurant, housed in the Baroque Stroganov Palace, where Beef Stroganov was invented. Overnight St. Petersburg. **BD**

Day 9 St. Petersburg

Today you travel 20 km west to the Gulf of Finland to visit Peterhof Palace with its landscaped gardens and spectacular cascading fountains. The palace was commissioned by Peter the Great as a summer residence to rival Versailles. The remainder of your afternoon is at leisure. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 10 St. Petersburg

Tour services end after breakfast, with a transfer to the airport or rail station. **B**

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel	Twn	Sgl
★★★★★		
	from 2989	5119
★★★★★		
	from 3328	5758
★★★★★		
	from 4369	7730

■ **Hotel descriptions - see pages 5 & 11.**



Murmansk region

NEW

Arctic & Karelia Winter Explorer

Tailor-made tour - 8 days/7 nights

Expand your horizons and travel by rail to Russia's Kola Peninsula, north of the Arctic Circle, and experience the magic of a true Russian winter. Highlights include an excursion by hovercraft over the frozen Lake Onega to tiny Kizhi Island and three nights of Aurora hunting in search of the enigmatic Northern Lights. We also offer similar itineraries to the region in small group tours and by Private Train.

Inclusions

- 5 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Arrival/departure transfers by car with guide assistance where specified
- Overnight in 2-berth rail compartment St. Petersburg-Petrozavodsk
- Overnight in 2-berth rail compartment Petrozavodsk-Murmansk
- Sightseeing as specified conducted by local **English speaking** guides
- St. Petersburg - Catherine's Palace at Pushkin
- Petrozavodsk - City tour, excursion by hovercraft to Kizhi
- Murmansk - City tour with Lenin nuclear icebreaker, Aurora hunting, Saami village & husky farm
- Kirovsk - Snow Village & snowmobile safari

Your hotels

- **St. Petersburg** - Petro Palace
- **Petrozavodsk** - Piter Inn
- **Murmansk** - Azimut

Day 1 St. Petersburg

Arrive St. Petersburg. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight St. Petersburg.

Day 2 St. Petersburg

This morning, you visit the town of Pushkin, also known as Tsars' Village. Visit Catherine's Palace, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture and home to the famous Amber Room. After a late checkout, you will be

transferred to the railway station, with guide assistance, to board your overnight train to Petrozavodsk (23:20). Overnight on board. **B**

Day 3 Petrozavodsk & Kizhi

Arrive Petrozavodsk at 06:50. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. After breakfast, you travel with your guide, by hovercraft over the frozen Lake Onega to tiny Kizhi Island. During your walking tour of this World Heritage Site, you will see the Transfiguration Church, built in 1714 entirely of Aspen wood. After a light lunch (lunch box), return to Petrozavodsk. Overnight Petrozavodsk. **B**

Day 4 Petrozavodsk to Murmansk

After breakfast, you have a city tour of Petrozavodsk, the capital of Karelia, founded by Peter the Great in 1703 as an iron foundry. Afternoon transfer with guide assistance to the station to board your train to Murmansk, departing at 17:14. Overnight on board. **B**

Day 5 Murmansk

Arrive Murmansk at 11:45. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Murmansk is the Arctic's largest city, situated on the picturesque Kola Bay, 193 km north of the Arctic Circle. During your city tour, you will see many memorable sights, including a giant concrete statue of a soldier, known as 'Alyosha', erected to commemorate the Arctic fighters who perished in WWII. You

will also visit the *Lenin* - the world's first nuclear-powered icebreaker, which was launched at the height of the Cold War in 1957 (closed Mon & Tue). This evening, you set out by car to seek out the Northern Lights. Overnight Murmansk.

Day 6 Murmansk

This morning, visit a Saami village to learn about their history and culture, then meet the dogs and deer at a husky farm. This evening, you continue your search for the Aurora Borealis. Overnight Murmansk. **B**

Day 7 Murmansk & Kirovsk

Today, you travel to the nearby city of Kirovsk, where you will visit Russia's largest Snow Village - a vast underground labyrinth featuring illuminated wall carvings and ice sculptures by artists from all over the Arctic region. You will then

have a chance to test your driving skills on a snowmobile safari. This evening, you travel by car into the countryside for your last opportunity to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights. Overnight Murmansk. **B**

Day 8 Murmansk

After breakfast, tour services end with your transfer to the airport or railway station. **B**

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Jan-Mar 2021.

Departures	TwN	Sgl
1 Jan-2 Feb	4614	POA
3 Feb-31 Mar	4789	POA

■ **Feb and Mar are the most suitable months for hovercraft travel over ice.**



kizhi



Latvia, Riga, House of Blackheads

Russian Highlights & the Baltics

Small group tour - 17 days/16 nights



Join this small group tour in Moscow and continue from St. Petersburg to the Baltics. We have allowed free time for a more relaxed experience and to enable you to explore at your own pace. However, if your time is limited, the itinerary from Day 8 may be adjusted to fit in with your schedule.

Inclusions

- 16 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels
- Meals - 1 lunch
- Arrival/departure transfers by car throughout
- Economy class Sapsan train Moscow-St. Petersburg
- Intercity coach service St. Petersburg-Tallinn-Riga-Vilnius
- Sightseeing as specified conducted by local guides in **English only**
- Moscow - Lenin's Dacha, City tour, Kremlin & Cathedral, Armoury Museum, Metro & Arbat tour, Tretyakov Art Gallery
- St. Petersburg - City tour, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum, Peterhof Palace & Gardens (May-Sep), Catherine's Palace (Jan-Apr & Oct-Dec)
- Tallinn, Riga & Vilnius - walking tours, Trakai Castle by car

Your hotels

- **Moscow** - Holiday Inn Lesnaya
- **St. Petersburg** - Radisson Sonya
- **Tallinn** - Merchant's House
- **Riga** - Semarah Metropole
- **Vilnius** - Artis Centrum

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Sat. Moscow

Arrive Moscow. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Moscow.

Day 2 Sun. Moscow

Morning excursion to the country estate of Gorki Leninskiye, 30 km south of Moscow and known as Lenin's Dacha. Lenin convalesced there after his assassination attempt in 1918. It houses many of his personal effects. Overnight Moscow. **BL**

Day 3 Mon. Moscow

Morning walking tour of the Kremlin grounds, then a visit to the State Armoury Museum. Afternoon tour of the Moscow Metro and walking tour of the Arbat pedestrian zone. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 4 Tue. Moscow to St. Petersburg

After breakfast, check out of your hotel for a tour of the original Tretyakov Art Gallery. Afternoon transfer to the railway station

for your high-speed train to St. Petersburg, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 5 Wed. St. Petersburg

Morning city tour including a visit to Peter & Paul Fortress, the foundation site of the city and burial place of the Romanovs. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 6 Thu. St. Petersburg

Morning visit to the Hermitage Museum. Afternoon free. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 7 Fri. St. Petersburg

Travel by hydrofoil to the Gulf of Finland to visit Peterhof Palace, commissioned by Peter the Great to rival Versailles (May to Sep) or (Oct to Apr) drive to the town of Pushkin to visit Catherine's Palace, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 8 Sat. St. Petersburg

Free day or you may pre-book additional excursions. Refer to pages 12 and 13. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 9 Sun. St. Petersburg to Tallinn

This morning, you will be transferred to the coach station to catch your intercity coach to Tallinn (approx. 7 hrs). Upon

arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

Day 10 Mon. Tallinn

Morning walking tour of medieval Tallinn, Estonia's capital. Your afternoon is free to relax or explore. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

Day 11 Tue. Tallinn to Riga

Morning checkout and transfer to the coach station for your 4.5-hour coach trip to Riga. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 12 Wed. Riga

Morning walking tour of Riga's Old Town, rich in different architectural styles. Your afternoon is free to continue exploring independently. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 13 Thu. Riga

Free day or take an excursion (additional cost) to magnificent Rundale Palace, designed by the architect of St. Petersburg's Winter Palace. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 14 Fri. Riga to Vilnius

Morning transfer to the coach station for your 4-hour journey to Vilnius, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 15 Sat. Vilnius

Your morning walking tour takes you into the Old Town, one of the most extensive and beautiful in Europe. Afternoon free. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 16 Sun. Vilnius

After breakfast, travel with your private guide and driver to Trakai Castle, on an island in Lake Galve. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 17 Mon. Vilnius

Tour services end today after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**



Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Saturday departures Jan-Dec 2020.

Departures	TwN	Sgl
11 Jan, 25 Jan, 8 Feb, 22 Feb, 7 Mar, 21 Mar, 28 Mar, 4 Apr, 24 Oct, 31 Oct, 14 Nov, 5 Dec, 19 Dec	4504	6878
11 Apr, 18 Apr, 26 Sep, 3 Oct, 10 Oct, 17 Oct	4582	7055
9 May, 16 May, 23 May, 30 May, 6 Jun, 13 Jun, 20 Jun, 27 Jun, 4 Jul	4791	7436
25 Apr, 2 May, 11 Jul, 18 Jul, 25 Jul, 1 Aug, 8 Aug, 15 Aug, 22 Aug, 29 Aug, 5 Sep, 12 Sep, 19 Sep	4737	7332

■ **Maximum capacity - 25 guests.**



Russian Highlights

Small group tour - 8 days/7 nights



This small group tour combines the must-see sights of Moscow and St. Petersburg travelling by high-speed train between the two cities. The tour operates all year round from January to December and also in reverse.

Inclusions

- 7 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels
- Meals - 1 lunch
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Economy class Sapsan train Moscow-St. Petersburg (unescorted)
- Sightseeing as specified conducted by local guides in **English only**
- Moscow - Lenin's Dacha, City tour, Kremlin & Cathedral, Armoury Museum, Metro & Arbat tour, Tretyakov Art Gallery
- St. Petersburg - City tour, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum, Peterhof Palace & Gardens (May-Sep), Catherine's Palace (Jan-Apr & Oct-Dec)

Your hotels

- **Moscow** - Holiday Inn Lesnaya
- **St. Petersburg** - Radisson Sonya

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Sat. Moscow

Independent arrival into Moscow. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Moscow.

Day 2 Sun. Moscow

Join your fellow travellers for an out of town excursion to Gorki Leninskiye, located 30 km south of Moscow and often referred to as 'Lenin's dacha'. The country estate was established in the 18th century and belonged to various noblemen. It was nationalised in 1918 and used primarily as

a sanatorium. Vladimir Lenin convalesced there after the assassination attempt on him in 1918 and continued to spend more and more time there. After lunch, return to Moscow for your city tour covering the major landmarks. Overnight Moscow. **BL**

Day 3 Mon. Moscow

This morning, meet your guide for a walking tour of Moscow's Kremlin grounds. Stroll through Cathedral Square - a breathtaking architectural ensemble from the 15th to 17th centuries,

the Tsar's Bell and Cannon, political and governmental buildings and the Kremlin walls and towers. Visit the State Armoury Museum housing a unique collection of the tsars' crown jewels, gems, thrones, Fabergé Eggs and coronation robes. In the afternoon you have a tour of some of the most spectacular stations of the Moscow Metro. Go underground for a grand display of marble, mosaics, chandeliers and sculpture. Stroll through the Arbat pedestrian zone with its many cafes and souvenir shops. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 4 Tue. Moscow to St. Petersburg

After breakfast, check out of your hotel for a visit to the State Tretyakov Art Gallery to view its collection of art that traces Russian culture from the 11th to 19th centuries. This afternoon you will be transferred to the railway station to join your Sapsan train departing at 16:30 for your 4-hour journey to St. Petersburg. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 5 Wed. St. Petersburg

Your tour will introduce you to the highlights of this beautiful northern city. Drive along fashionable Nevsky Prospekt, the main thoroughfare of St. Petersburg, lined with 18th century palaces, shops and

restaurants. See magnificent Palace Square, the third largest in the world, flanked by the Triumphal Arch, General Staff building and Winter Palace complex. In the afternoon visit Peter & Paul Fortress, the site chosen by Peter the Great in 1703 as the foundation of St. Petersburg. All the Russian emperors since Peter the Great are buried in Peter & Paul Cathedral, including the last Tsar, Nicholas II and his family. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 6 Thu. St. Petersburg

After breakfast, visit the State Hermitage Museum. Housed in five buildings on the Neva Embankment, the Museum boasts a collection of more than 3 million items. Afternoon free for independent sightseeing. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 7 Fri. St. Petersburg

Travel one way by hydrofoil to the Gulf of Finland to visit Peterhof Palace and its magnificent gardens (May to Sep only). It was commissioned by Peter the Great as a summer palace to rival Versailles. From October to April, you drive to the town of Pushkin, known as Tsars' Village, to visit Catherine's Palace, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 8 Sat. St. Petersburg

Tour services end after breakfast, with a transfer to the airport or rail station. **B**



Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Saturday departures Jan-Dec 2020. From May to Oct the tour may be taken in reverse on Tuesdays (Sightseeing may vary).

Departures	Tw'n	Sgl
11 Jan, 25 Jan, 8 Feb, 22 Feb, 7 Mar, 21 Mar, 28 Mar, 4 Apr, 24 Oct, 31 Oct, 14 Nov, 5 Dec, 19 Dec	1959	2401
11 Apr, 18 Apr, 26 Sep, 3 Oct, 10 Oct, 17 Oct	2037	2577
9 May, 16 May, 23 May, 30 May, 6 Jun, 13 Jun, 20 Jun, 27 Jun, 4 Jul	2246	2958
25 Apr, 2 May, 11 Jul, 18 Jul, 25 Jul, 1 Aug, 8 Aug, 15 Aug, 22 Aug, 29 Aug, 5 Sep, 12 Sep, 19 Sep	2192	2855

■ **Maximum capacity - 25 guests.**



Sweden, Stockholm

Value Added Inclusions
Look for the *

Scandinavian & Russian Treasures

Escorted coach, ferry and rail tour - 19 days/18 nights

Inclusions

- 16 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels
- Meals - 4 dinners
- Shared arrival transfer (airport only)
- Private departure transfer by car *
- Transportation by A/C coach or minivan
- Overnight ferry Copenhagen-Oslo in Outside cabin
- Overnight ferry Stockholm-Helsinki in Outside cabin
- Economy class Sapsan train St. Petersburg-Moscow
- Sightseeing as specified **in English with bilingual tour escort**
- City tours of Copenhagen, Oslo, Bergen, Stockholm, Helsinki, Vyborg, St. Petersburg & Moscow, Flåm Railway *
- St. Petersburg - Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage *, Peterhof & Grand Palace *
- Moscow - Kremlin and Cathedral, Metro and Arbat tour *

Your hotels

- **Copenhagen** - Scandic Copenhagen
- **Eidfjord** - Quality Voringfoss
- **Bergen** - Scandic Ørnen
- **Stalheim** - Stalheim
- **Fagernes** - Thon Scandic Valdres
- **Oslo** - Thon Opera
- **Stockholm** - Scandic Grand Central
- **Helsinki** - Glo Art
- **St. Petersburg** - Sokos Vasilevsky
- **Moscow** - Azimut Smolenskaya

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Thu. Copenhagen

Arrival Copenhagen airport, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Copenhagen.

Day 2 Fri. Copenhagen to Oslo

Morning sightseeing tour of Copenhagen. This afternoon, board the DFDS Seaways overnight ferry to Oslo. Dinner and overnight on board ferry. **BD**

Day 3 Sat. Oslo to Eidfjord

Disembark and drive directly to the beautiful Hallingdal Valley. Visit Gol and the small town of Geilo and continue to Hardangervidda to visit the Voringfossen Waterfall. Overnight Eidfjord. **BD**

Day 4 Sun. Eidfjord to Bergen

Today you cross the Hardanger fjord along the impressive Hardanger Bridge - one of the longest suspension bridges in the world. Arrive Bergen for an afternoon sightseeing tour. Overnight Bergen. **B**

Day 5 Mon. Bergen to Stalheim

After a free morning, travel to the historical town of Voss to admire its backdrop of snow-clad mountains. Continue on towards the Naeroy Valley to Stalheim. Overnight Stalheim. **BD**

Day 6 Tue. Stalheim to Fagernes

Today you travel through the fjord region to Gudvangen and cross the Naeroyfjord to the village of Flåm and enjoy a ride on the famous Flåm Railway. This afternoon, continue along the Aurlandfjord for a photo stop at the famous Borgund Stave Church. Overnight Fagernes. **BD**

Day 7 Wed. Fagernes to Oslo

After breakfast, bid farewell to the fjords and return to Oslo for an afternoon sightseeing tour. Overnight Oslo. **B**

Day 8 Thu. Oslo to Stockholm

Today you cross the border into Sweden, travelling through its fertile farmlands

and forests, for an afternoon arrival in Stockholm. Overnight Stockholm. **B**

Day 9 Fri. Stockholm

Built on 14 islands, Stockholm is undoubtedly one of the world's most beautiful capitals. After your morning sightseeing tour, the afternoon is free for independent exploring. Overnight Stockholm. **B**

Day 10 Sat. Stockholm to Helsinki

Morning at leisure. Mid-afternoon, embark the Tallink Silja Line for a leisurely journey through the islands of the archipelago to Helsinki. Overnight on board. **B**

Day 11 Sun. Helsinki

This morning's sightseeing tour of Finland's delightful seaport capital commences after disembarkation and concludes with your hotel check-in. Overnight Helsinki. **B**

Day 12 Mon. Helsinki

Your day is free to explore Helsinki at your own pace. You may wish to join an optional excursion to the island fortress of Suomenlinna. Overnight Helsinki. **B**

Day 13 Tue. Helsinki to St. Petersburg

Continue eastbound by coach, crossing the border into Russia at Vyborg, where you have a short tour. Late afternoon arrival and overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 14 Wed. St. Petersburg

After breakfast, your city tour will introduce you to the major landmarks of Peter the Great's northern capital, including a visit to Peter & Paul Fortress. Afternoon free or take an optional tour of Catherine's Palace

at Pushkin with its famous Amber Room. This evening, you may enjoy an optional folklore performance at the 19th century Nikolaevsky Palace. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 15 Thu. St. Petersburg

Morning drive to the Gulf of Finland to visit the Grand Palace and magnificent gardens of Peterhof Palace. This afternoon, visit the world famous Hermitage Museum. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 16 Fri. St. Petersburg to Moscow

Morning free or take an optional canal cruise, before boarding your high speed Sapsan train to Moscow, arriving in the late afternoon. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 17 Sat. Moscow

Morning city tour including the Kremlin grounds and a Cathedral. Afternoon tour of Moscow's amazing metro system, followed by a stroll along the Arbat pedestrian street. Evening optional Moscow by Night tour with river cruise. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 18 Sun. Moscow

Free day to explore independently or join an optional tour to Sergiev Posad to visit the Trinity Monastery of St. Sergius, the bastion of Russian Orthodoxy. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 19 Mon. Moscow

Tour services end after breakfast with your transfer to the airport or rail station or you may wish to extend your stay and visit the Golden Ring towns of Suzdal and Vladimir. **B**

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Thursday departures May-Sep 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
14 May, 11 Jun	6348	8724
2 Jul, 16 Jul, 30 Jul, 6 Aug, 20 Aug, 3 Sep, 10 Sep	6171	8546

■ See page 19 for map.



St. Petersburg, Vasilievsky Island

MS Volga Dream

Luxury Hotel & Cruise-Tour

The Volga Dream difference

The MS Volga Dream is the only family-owned ship on the Volga and her owners take immense pride in offering a truly Russian experience. Most importantly, your cruise-tour has one very special advantage over other Russian river cruises – during your three-night stays in both Moscow and St. Petersburg, you stay in downtown 5-star hotels, minutes from the major attractions. This enables you to maximise your valuable time ashore and explore independently. With most other cruise companies, you sleep on board ship during your stays, moored at river ports on the outskirts of the cities.

Welcome on board

From the moment you step on board the boutique MS Volga Dream, you are made to feel welcome and know that you are going to be spoiled. The attentive, hand-picked, English speaking service personnel make you feel immediately that this will be a very special journey. With just 100 passengers and a crew of 60, the MS Volga Dream boasts the highest crew-to-passenger ratio on the river. And for that additional peace of mind, there is a doctor on board.

Your ship

The MS Volga Dream offers the latest in passenger and marine safety and features many spacious lounges and decks to relax, offering ample seating for all passengers.

Fine dining

The delightful restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting, offering the highest standard of cuisine, freshly chosen by the Cordon Bleu Chef. Lunch may be a sumptuous buffet or set menu, while dinner is always four or five courses, with full service. Accompanying the best selection of international and Russian dishes is complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks with all on board lunches and dinners. In addition, a 24-hour self-service coffee station offers complimentary coffee, tea and snacks.

Small group sightseeing

All sightseeing is conducted in small groups with professional English speaking local guides. Excursions on the Gold program are conducted

in groups of maximum 25 guests, Platinum program groups comprise a maximum of 16 guests and Imperial groups a maximum of 10 guests.

Feedback from our guests

“The program in Moscow and St. Petersburg was great – well worth doing the Platinum program. Hotels were great, food on the ship was great, with plenty of variety and well presented. Staff on board were all fabulous, tour guides were excellent. Visiting the towns along the Volga River gave us a good insight into country life. Certainly can recommend the cruise – it is a great way to visit Russia.”
Jo-Anne, July 2019



2021 Early Bird Discount

Save \$250 per person when you book and deposit by 31 Aug 2020.



St. Petersburg, Peterhof

MS Volga Dream – Hotel & Cruise Tour

Moscow to St. Petersburg or reverse – 13 days/12 nights

Gold program

Your Gold program includes daily sightseeing in groups of maximum 25 guests with ample free time for independent exploring. Your 5-star hotels in Moscow and St. Petersburg are minutes away from the major attractions.

Day 1 Moscow

Arrival Moscow. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your central 5-star St. Regis Nikolskaya or Ararat Hyatt hotel. Evening welcome meeting.

Day 2 Moscow

Morning city tour and visit to the Novodevichy Cemetery where many of Russia's famous cultural and political figures are buried. Afternoon at leisure. **B**

Day 3 Moscow

Morning visit to the Kremlin grounds and see the unique collection of tsars' treasures in the State Armoury Museum. Your tour concludes in Red Square and the rest of your day is free. **B**

Day 4 Moscow

Morning free. Midday check-out from your hotel followed by a visit to the Tretyakov Art Gallery, the first museum dedicated to Russian fine art. Then explore Moscow's

amazing metro system before you board the MS Volga Dream to begin your 6-night cruise along Russia's waterways and enjoy the Captain's welcome reception and dinner. **BD**

Day 5 Uglich

Afternoon arrival in Uglich, founded in 1148. During your walking tour of the city you will see the Church of St. Dmitry on the Blood, St. John's Church and attend a concert of choral music. **BLD**

Day 6 Yaroslavl

Morning arrival in Yaroslavl, the oldest city on the Volga River and a World Heritage Site. Visit the Church of St. Elijah the Prophet with its rich frescoes and take part in a costumed reception at the Governor's House. **BLD**

Day 7 Goritsy

Early this morning your ship crosses the White Lake to arrive in the peaceful village

of Goritsy. Visit the Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, founded in 1397 and home to one of the world's finest collections of Russian icons. **BLD**

Day 8 Kizhi

Cruise through Lake Onega to tiny Kizhi Island with some of Russia's most famous and most intricate wooden architecture. A highlight of your walking tour is the Transfiguration Church, built from aspen in 1714 without a single nail. **BLD**

Day 9 Svir River & Svirstroy

Enjoy the scenery as your ship navigates the Svir River towards Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest freshwater lake. During WWII the frozen lake provided the only access to the besieged city of Leningrad. Visit a local resident's home where you will be welcomed warmly and offered tea with jam and piroshky (pies). Then take a bus to the nearby town to visit a local primary school. **BLD**

Day 10 St. Petersburg

Morning arrival in St. Petersburg, where you disembark the MS Volga Dream. Begin your city tour with a visit to Peter & Paul Fortress. Afternoon check-in to the Belmond Grand Hotel Europe. **B**

Day 11 St. Petersburg

Morning visit to the Hermitage Museum. After lunch, visit the magnificent Peterhof estate to stroll through the gardens and visit one of the small cottages. **BL**

Day 12 St. Petersburg

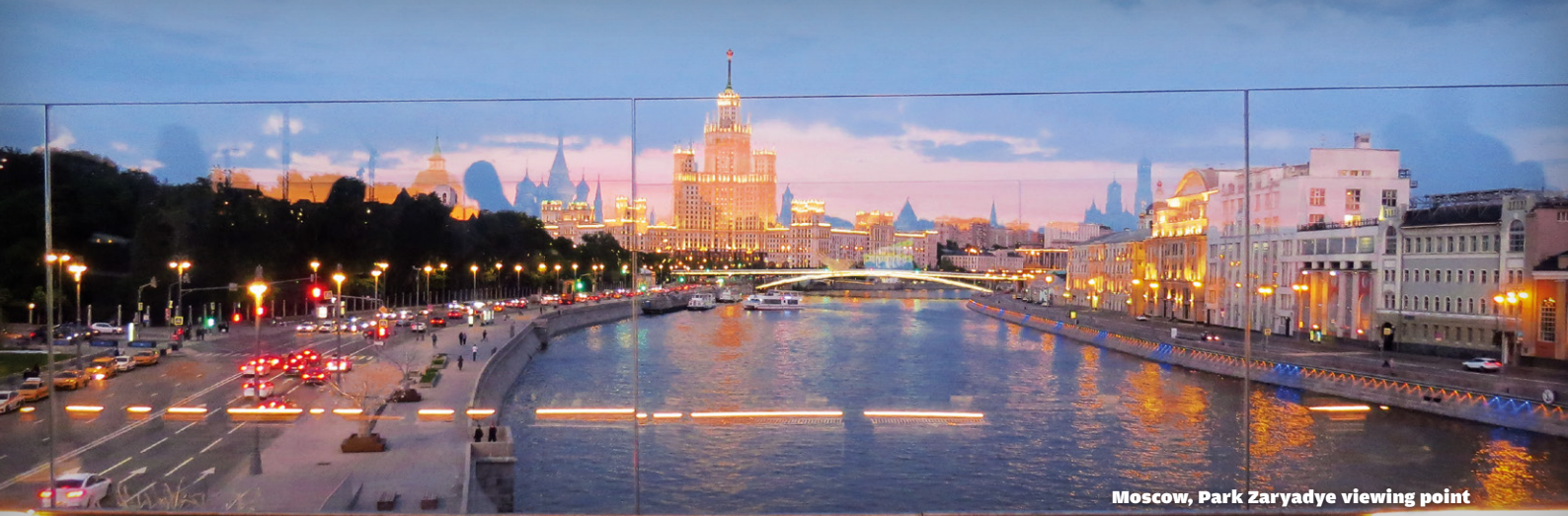
Your morning is free or you may choose to take an optional tour. This afternoon, you drive to the town of Pushkin (Tsars' Village) to visit the magnificent Baroque Catherine's Palace, with its famous Amber Room. **B**

Day 13 St. Petersburg

Tour services end after breakfast with your transfer to the airport. **B**



Kizhi Island



MS Volga Dream - Hotel & Cruise Tour

Moscow to St. Petersburg or reverse - 13 days/12 nights

Platinum & Imperial programs

Your Platinum and Imperial programs offer a more intensive sightseeing experience. In addition to the major sights, you will also be treated to special highlights such as entry to St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow, with a walking tour of the nearby Park Zaryadye and a visit to Leo Tolstoy's House Museum. In St. Petersburg your special extras include early entrance to the Hermitage Museum with a tour of the Gold Room, St. Isaac's Cathedral, the Yusupov Palace, the Fabergé Museum, evening canal cruise and a performance of the Red Army Choir. Platinum guests stay at the St. Regis Moscow Nikolskaya or Ararat Park Hyatt in Moscow and the Belmond Grand Hotel Europe in St. Petersburg, while Imperial guests stay at the luxurious Four Seasons Hotels in both Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Day 1 Moscow

Arrival Moscow. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your centrally located 5-star hotel. Evening welcome meeting.

Platinum program - St. Regis Moscow Nikolskaya or Ararat Park Hyatt
Imperial program - Four Seasons

Day 2 Moscow

Begin your day with an orientation city tour of Moscow. Enjoy lunch in a restaurant offering spectacular city views, then visit the Novodevichy Cemetery. **BL**

Day 3 Moscow

Morning visit to the Kremlin grounds, the 15th century Assumption and Archangel Cathedrals and State Armoury Museum.

After lunch, stroll through Red Square and GUM department store before entering the iconic St. Basil's Cathedral. A leisurely walk then takes you through the recently opened Park Zaryadye. **BL**

Day 4 Moscow

After checking out of your hotel, you visit the house museum of Leo Tolstoy, one of Russia's literary greats. Tolstoy lived in this two-story wooden house from 1882 to 1901, together with his wife and 13 children. Continue your sightseeing after lunch with a visit to the original State Tretyakov Art Gallery with works spanning the entire history of Russian art. followed by a tour of Moscow's Metro. Embark the MS Volga Dream and meet your crew at the Captain's welcome reception and dinner. **BLD**

Day 5 Uglich

Afternoon arrival in Uglich, founded in 1148. During your walking tour of the city you will see the Church of St. Dmitry on the Blood and attend a choral concert in St. John's Church. **BLD**

Day 6 Yaroslavl

Morning arrival in Yaroslavl, the oldest city on the Volga River and a World Heritage Site. Visit the Church of St. Elijah the Prophet with its rich frescoes and take part in a costumed reception at the Governor's House. **BLD**

Day 7 Goritsy

Early this morning your ship crosses the White Lake to arrive in the peaceful village of Goritsy. Visit the Ferapontov Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of the purest examples of Russian medieval art, with frescoes by Dionysius, one of Russia's most renowned icon painters. **BLD**

Day 8 Kizhi

Today, you cruise through Lake Onega, to tiny Kizhi Island. A highlight of your walking tour is the Transfiguration Church, built from aspen in 1714 without a single nail. **BLD**

Day 9 Svir River & Svirstroy

Enjoy the scenery as your ship navigates the Svir River towards Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest freshwater lake. During WWII the frozen lake provided the only access to the besieged city of Leningrad. Visit a local resident's home where you will be warmly welcomed and offered tea with

jam and piroshky (pies). Then take a bus to the nearby town to visit a local primary school. **BLD**

Day 10 St. Petersburg

Morning arrival in St. Petersburg, where you disembark the MS Volga Dream. Begin your city tour which includes a visit to St. Isaac's Cathedral. During lunch, you will be entertained by a performance of the Red Army Choir. Enjoy a relaxing canal cruise, followed by a tour of the Yusupov Palace. This evening, check in to your centrally located hotel.

Platinum - Belmond Grand Hotel Europe
Imperial - Four Seasons Lion Palace **BL**

Day 11 St. Petersburg

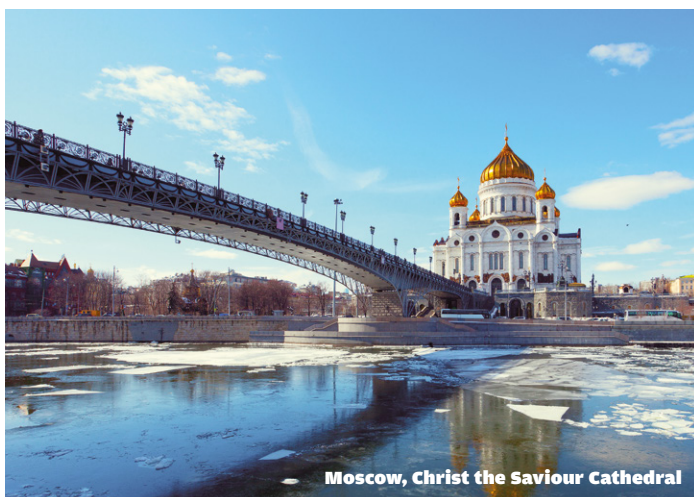
Early entrance to the Hermitage Museum this morning, including the Gold Room with its collection of gold Scythian artwork and imperial gifts. After lunch, travel to the Peterhof estate to stroll through the gardens and visit one of the small cottages. **BL**

Day 12 St. Petersburg

Morning visit to the fabulous Fabergé Museum, housing the world's largest collection of objets d'art by Carl Fabergé, including nine Imperial Easter Eggs. After lunch, travel to the town of Pushkin (Tsars' Village) to visit Catherine's Palace, summer residence of the tsars from the early 18th century to 1917, with its famous Amber Room. **BL**

Day 13 St. Petersburg

Tour services end after breakfast with your transfer to the airport. **B**





The Volga Dream Experience

Luxury hotel stays

Whether you choose a Gold, Platinum or Imperial program - you will be accommodated in centrally-located 5-star international hotels during your 3-night stays in both Moscow and St. Petersburg. In Gold and Platinum programs, your hotels are pre-assigned based on cruise dates.

Gold & Platinum programs



St. Regis Moscow Nikolskaya

The deluxe St. Regis Moscow Nikolskaya is located in an historic building facing Lubyanka Square and a few minutes' walk along the delightful Nikolskaya pedestrian mall to Red Square. The 210 spacious rooms feature stylish décor and marble bathrooms. The hotel has a lobby bar, rooftop terrace, signature Italian restaurant and a spa. Guests also have 24-hour access to the gym and indoor pool.



Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow

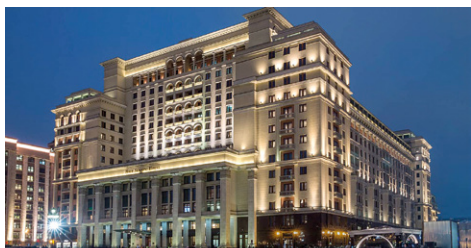
The world-class Ararat Park Hyatt is located close to the Bolshoi Theatre and minutes' walk from Red Square. All rooms and most public areas were stylishly renovated by the renowned designer Tony Chi in 2012. The hotel houses four restaurants including the landmark Cafe Ararat which combines traditional Armenian and contemporary cuisine. The hotel also houses a fitness centre and indoor pool.



Belmond Grand Hotel Europe St. Petersburg

The iconic Belmond Grand Hotel Europe is ideally positioned on Nevsky Prospekt, adjacent to Arts Square. The hotel has played a central role in the history of St. Petersburg for more than 140 years. Its guest list includes Dostoevsky, Stravinsky, Tchaikovsky and members of the Romanov dynasty. Soaring ceilings, stained glass, plush fabrics and Art Nouveau flourishes offer a sense of grandeur from a bygone era.

Imperial program



Four Seasons Hotel Moscow

The top-of-the-range, luxury Four Seasons Hotel Moscow boasts a superb historic location, overlooking Manezhnaya Square, just steps away from Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin. The interior, including its 180 rooms, exudes contemporary style and luxury. The hotel offers an extensive range of dining options in five restaurants and lounges and a state-of-the-art Amnis Spa complex with fitness centre and lap pool.



Four Seasons Lion Palace St. Petersburg

Housed within a magnificent 19th century royal palace, the Four Seasons Lion Palace is located on St. Isaac's Square close to Nevsky Prospekt and the Mariinsky Theatre. The architect of neighbouring St. Isaac's Cathedral, Auguste de Montferrand, was commissioned by Prince Lobanov-Rostovsky, aide-de-camp to the Tsar, to create an elite apartment building. The hotel features two fine-dining venues, the Xander Bar and a luxury spa.





Kizhi

Inclusions

- 6 nights on board MS Volga Dream in air-conditioned outside cabin
- 6 nights accommodation with breakfast in central 5-star hotels (3 nights Moscow, 3 nights St. Petersburg)
- Group arrival/departure transfers (on days 1 and 13 only)
- All meals on board MS Volga Dream including complimentary wine & soft drinks with lunch & dinner
- Restaurant meals as specified
- Bottled water replenished daily
- Sightseeing as specified with **English speaking guide**
- Entertainment and educational program on board
- Port charges

Gold

- Restaurant meals - 1 lunch
- Sightseeing excursions in group of maximum 25 guests

Your 5-star hotels

- **Moscow** - St. Regis Nikolskaya or Ararat Park Hyatt
- **St. Petersburg** - Belmond Grand Hotel Europe

Platinum

- Restaurant meals - 6 lunches
- Sightseeing excursions in group of maximum 16 guests
- Additional excursions - **Moscow** - Leo Tolstoy's House Museum, Park Zaryadye, St. Basil's Cathedral **St. Petersburg** - Early entrance to the Hermitage plus Gold Room, St. Isaac's Cathedral, Canal Cruise, Yusupov Palace, Fabergé Museum, Red Army Choir

Your 5-star hotels

- **Moscow** - St. Regis Nikolskaya or Ararat Park Hyatt
- **St. Petersburg** - Belmond Grand Hotel Europe

Imperial

- Restaurant meals - 6 lunches
- Private arrival/departure transfers by car (on days 1 & 13 only)
- Sightseeing excursions in group of maximum 10 guests
- Additional excursions - **Moscow** - Leo Tolstoy's House Museum, Park Zaryadye, St. Basil's Cathedral **St. Petersburg** - Early entrance to the Hermitage plus Gold Room, St. Isaac's Cathedral, Canal Cruise, Yusupov Palace, Fabergé Museum, Red Army Choir

Your 5-star hotels

- **Moscow** - Four Seasons
- **St. Petersburg** - Four Seasons Lion Palace

* In Gold and Platinum programs, your hotels are pre-assigned based on cruise dates.

Cruise Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable 2020.

		Category/Deck									
		Cabin	Main	Promenade				Sun			
		Standard	Superior	Standard	Deluxe	Jnr Suite	Owners Suite	Deluxe	Jnr Suite	Deluxe Jnr Suite	
Ship/Departures	Class	Twn	Twn	Sgl	Dbl	Dbl	Dbl	Twn	Sgl	Dbl	Dbl
MS VOLGA DREAM											
ex Moscow											
4 Jun, 18 Jun, 1 Jul, 13 Jul, 25 Jul, 7 Aug, 20 Aug, 3 Sep, 21 Sep	Gold	5245	6045	7745	6645	7745	10945	6845	8645	7745	8645
	Platinum	6745	7545	9245	8145	9245	12445	8345	10145	9245	10145
13 Jul, 25 Jul, 7 Aug, 20 Aug, 3 Sep	Imperial	8245	9045	10745	9645	10745	13945	9845	11645	10745	11645
ex St. Petersburg											
24 Jun, 26 Aug, 27 Sep	Gold	5245	6045	7745	6645	7745	10945	6845	8645	7745	8645
	Platinum	6745	7545	9245	8145	9245	12445	8345	10145	9245	10145

■ Limited single cabins are available on Promenade and Sun Decks. For sole use of a twin or double cabin - prices are on application. For deck and cabin plans see pages 26 & 27.



Uglich, Epiphany Cathedral



Goritsy, Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery



Kizhi

MS Volga Dream

On board accommodation



Standard Single



Deluxe Single



Standard Twin: Porthole windows



Superior Twin



Deluxe Double



Junior Suite: Desk, chair



Deluxe Junior Suite: Sofa, chair, desk



Owner's Suite, Double: 2 armchairs, sofa, desk

MS Volga Dream offers you a wide choice of on board accommodation in classic décor - from Standard, Superior and Deluxe cabins to Junior Suites and the ultimate Owner's Suite. All 56 cabins are outside, with individually controlled air-conditioning, en suite bathroom and separate shower, bathrobes and slippers, hairdryer, minibar, safe and flat-screen TV. The bottled water in your cabin is replenished daily.

Deck	Cabin	Size
Sun Deck		
Deluxe Junior Suite	402, 403, 404	15.8 m ²
Junior Suite	405	13.1 m ²
Deluxe Twin	406-409, 411, 412	11.7 m ²
Deluxe Single	410	7.5 m ²
Promenade Deck		
Owner's Suite	300	24.2 m ²
Junior Suite	316	14.7 m ²
Deluxe Double	301-315, 317-324	11.3 m ²
Standard Single	325, 326	6.4 m ²
Main Deck		
Superior Twin	201-210	10.6 m ²
Cabin Deck		
Standard Twin	101-108	9.4 m ²

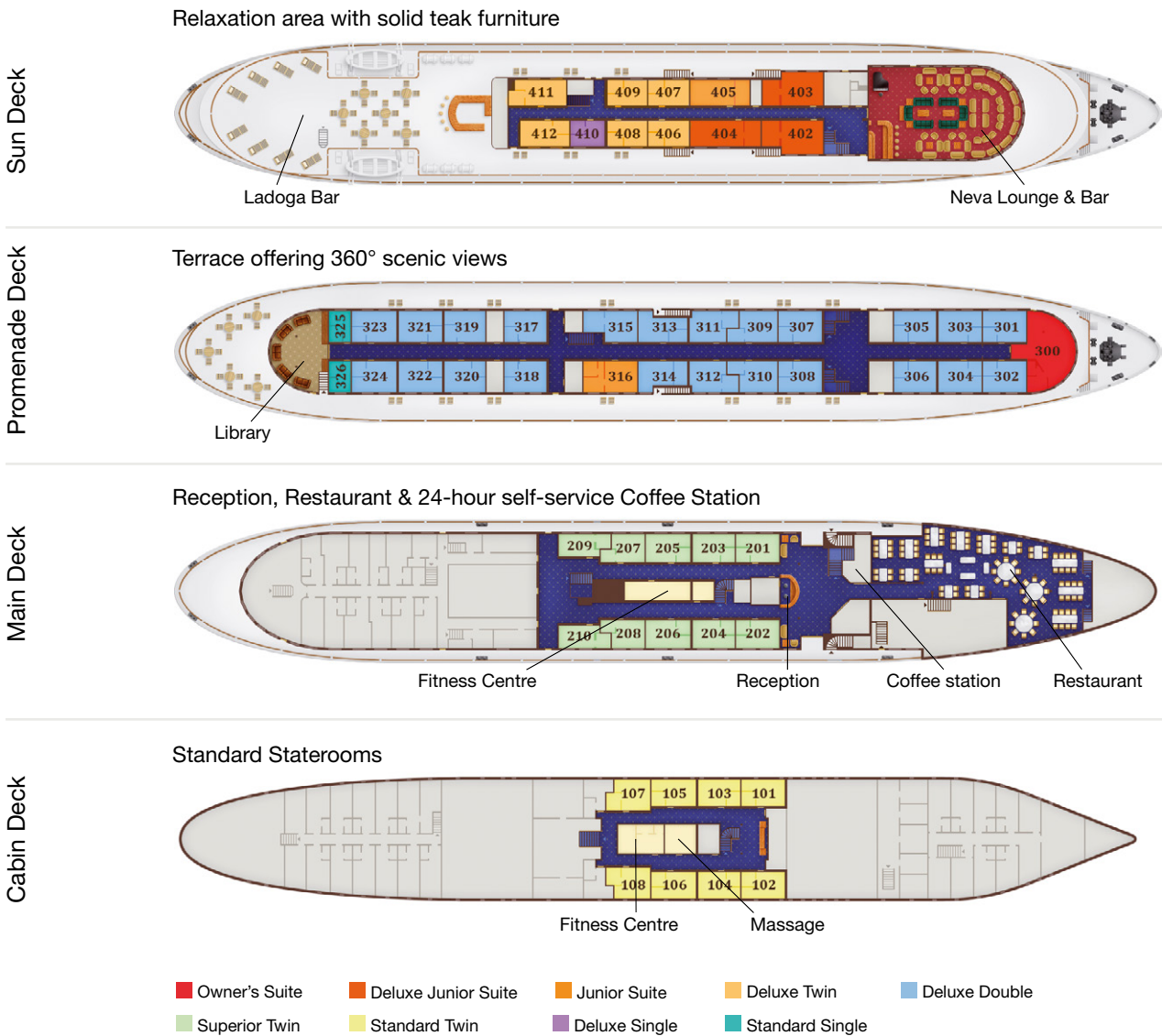


Deluxe Double 11.3m²



MS Volga Dream

Deck plan





MS Chernyshevsky & MS Shashkov

River Cruises – Moscow to St. Petersburg – 12 days/11 nights

River Cruising in Russia offers the opportunity to explore beyond Moscow and St. Petersburg, to experience life in riverside towns and rural settlements. In addition, you can venture south to the Lower Volga as far as Astrakhan. The MS Chernyshevsky underwent a complete renovation in 2018, offering a range of upgraded cabins, and the popular tourist class MS Shashkov offers excellent value. Your cruise includes meals, a comprehensive sightseeing program conducted in English and an onboard entertainment program that introduces you to Russian culture, history and language.

Day 1 Moscow

Welcome to Moscow, Russia's vibrant capital city. Board your ship and meet your fellow travellers and crew this evening for an information briefing.

Day 2 Moscow

This morning's orientation city tour will introduce you to Moscow's wide boulevards and famous landmarks. Tour highlights include Red Square and GUM, where you will have some free time, Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Lubyanka and famous Bolshoi Theatre. After lunch at a city restaurant, visit the Kremlin, which houses the political headquarters of the planet's largest nation. Walk through the grounds and enter one of the cathedrals.

Day 3 Moscow

Today is free to explore independently, or you may choose to take an optional

excursion. Your ship departs for Uglich in the early evening.

Day 4 Uglich

Spend the morning cruising and disembark after lunch in Uglich, a charming town founded in 1148. Your walking tour covers the Kremlin territory, Transfiguration Cathedral and Church of St. Dmitry on the Blood where Tsar Ivan the Terrible's son was murdered, sparking a power struggle for the throne and a period of unrest known as the 'Time of Troubles'.

Day 5 Yaroslavl

Yaroslavl is the oldest city on the Volga River. It is one of the Golden Ring group of ancient towns and a World Heritage site. This morning, you visit the Church of St. Nicholas and enjoy a costumed performance in the former Governor's house. Depart early afternoon for Goritsy.

Day 6 Goritsy

After lunch, dock at Goritsy, an unspoilt settlement on the banks of the Volga-Baltic Canal. A short bus trip will take you to the impressive Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, one of the largest monasteries in Russia.

Day 7 Kizhi

Today you cruise through Lake Onega, Europe's second largest lake, arriving late afternoon at tiny Kizhi Island. During your walking tour you will see the Open-air Museum of Architecture. The wooden Transfiguration Church, with 22 cupolas made from aspen wood, was built in 1714 without a single nail used. It represents the ultimate in Russian fairy-tale architecture.

Day 8 Mandrogi

Late morning arrival at Mandrogi. Here you have free time to enjoy the peaceful

scenery, stock up on local handmade souvenirs, or visit the Vodka Museum and taste some of Russia's most popular brands. This afternoon you depart for St. Petersburg, crossing Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest lake. During the Siege of Leningrad in WWII the frozen lake was the lifeline of the city, providing a conduit for food supplies and military equipment.

Day 9 St. Petersburg

After breakfast, your city tour introduces you to the highlights of this beautiful city. You'll see St. Isaac's Cathedral, Smolny Cathedral, Palace Square and Nevsky Prospekt, the main thoroughfare of the city. Continue to Peter and Paul Fortress, the first building constructed in St. Petersburg in 1703. Visit Peter and Paul Cathedral, burial place of the tsars from Peter the Great to the last Tsar Nicholas II. Enjoy lunch at a city restaurant, drive to the Gulf of Finland for a walking tour of the lower park of Peterhof Palace. It was commissioned as a summer palace by Peter the Great as a direct response to the Palace of Versailles by Louis XIV of France. In summer months the focal point is the spectacular Grand Cascade of fountains and gilded statues.

Day 10 St. Petersburg

After breakfast, you visit the world famous Hermitage Museum. The rest of your afternoon is free or you may take an optional tour.

Day 11 St. Petersburg

Today is free for independent sightseeing, or you may join one of the optional tours.

Day 12 St. Petersburg

Disembark.





Moscow, Park Zaryadye viewing point

MS Chernyshevsky

Inclusions

- Outside air-conditioned cabin
- 3 meals daily on board (buffet breakfast & lunch), glass of wine with dinner, Russian Tea Ceremony
- Coffee/tea station
- Bottled water in cabin replenished daily
- Sightseeing as specified with **English speaking** guide
- Entertainment - musical program, Russian language lessons
- Port charges

MS Shashkov

Inclusions

- Outside air-conditioned cabin
- 3 meals daily on board
- Bottled water in cabin replenished daily in cabin
- Sightseeing as specified with **English speaking** guide
- Entertainment - musical program, Russian language lessons
- Port charges

Transfers

Transfers between airport and ship are not included. They can be purchased separately.

Prices shown per car in AUD (max 2 persons).

Moscow Domodedovo airport to ship	182
Moscow Sheremetyevo airport to ship	93
St. Petersburg ship to Pulkovo airport	93

Cruise prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable 2020.

Ship/Sailing Dates	Category/Deck								
	Main	Middle					Boat		
	Deluxe	Standard	Deluxe	Jnr Suite	Suite	Standard	Deluxe		
	Twn (L-shaped)	Twn	Sgl	Twn/Dbf	Dbf	Dbf	Twn	Sgl	Twn/Dbf
MS CHERNYSHEVSKY									
ex Moscow (12 days/11 nights)									
5 May, 28 Jul, 18 Aug	4368	3952	4264	4784	4992	5200	4056	4264	4784
26 May, 16 Jun, 7 Jul	4576	4160	4472	4992	5200	5408	4264	4472	4992
ex St. Petersburg (11 days/10 nights)									
16 May, 6 Jun, 27 Jun, 18 Jul, 29 Aug	4160	3782	4065	4538	4727	4916	3876	4065	4538
8 Aug	3971	3593	3877	4349	4538	4727	3687	3877	4349

■ Limited single cabins are available on Middle and Boat Decks. For deck and cabin plans see page 30.

Cruise prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable 2020.

Ship/Sailing Dates	Category/Deck							
	Main		Middle		Boat			
	Standard		Standard		Standard		Suite	
	Twn	Sgl	Twn	Sgl	Twn	Sgl	Dbf	Sgl
MS SHASHKOV								
ex Moscow (12 days/11 nights)								
28 Jun, 19 Jul, 30 Aug	3683	6413	3787	6595	3891	4099	5451	10859
9 Aug, 20 Sep	3475	6049	3579	6231	3683	3891	5243	10443
ex St. Petersburg (11 days/10 nights)								
30 Jul, 20 Aug, 1 Oct	3159	5499	3254	5664	3348	3537	4766	9494
9 Jul, 10 Sep	3348	5829	3443	5995	3537	3726	4955	9872

■ Limited single cabins are available on Boat Deck. For deck and cabin plans see page 31.



MS Chernyshevsky

Deck plan

MS Chernyshevsky

118 cabins. All cabins are outside with A/C, private bathroom and shower - Deluxe cabins have larger bathrooms with separate shower area, Lower deck cabins have portholes. On board facilities: 3 walk-around open-air promenade decks, Sun Deck, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, souvenir shop, laundry services, first aid station, sauna, ironing room.

Built 1981, refurbished 2018, 5 decks, 218 guests

The popular MS Chernyshevsky was built in Germany in 1981. The vessel underwent an extensive refurbishment in 2018, with fresh new décor in the cabins and larger bathrooms with separate shower areas in the new Deluxe category.



Suite



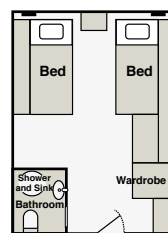
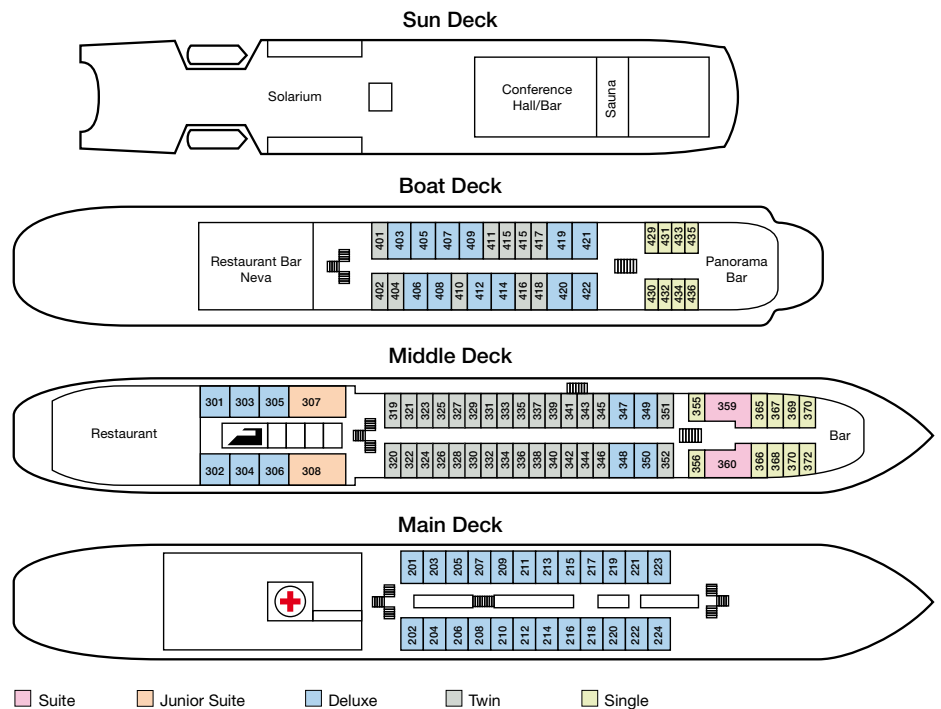
Junior Suite



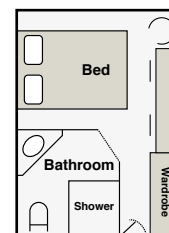
Deluxe Double



Standard Twin



Standard Cabin (approx.) 9m²



Deluxe Double (approx.) 15.5m²

Triple cabins on Lower Deck (not illustrated) - available on request.



MS Shashkov

Deck plan

MS Shashkov

154 cabins. All cabins are outside with A/C, private bathroom and shower, fridge, picture windows (except lower deck - portholes). On board facilities: 3 walk-around open-air promenade decks, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, Sun Deck, souvenir shop, laundry services, first aid station, ironing room and sauna.

Built 1986, refurbished 2013, 5 decks, 280 guests

MS Shashkov was built in Germany in 1986 and refurbished in 2013. This comfortable 5-deck vessel features spacious suites, twin cabins and quad cabins for twin use on the Lower Deck. The quad cabins have portholes instead of scenic windows.



Restaurant



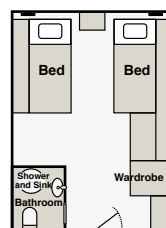
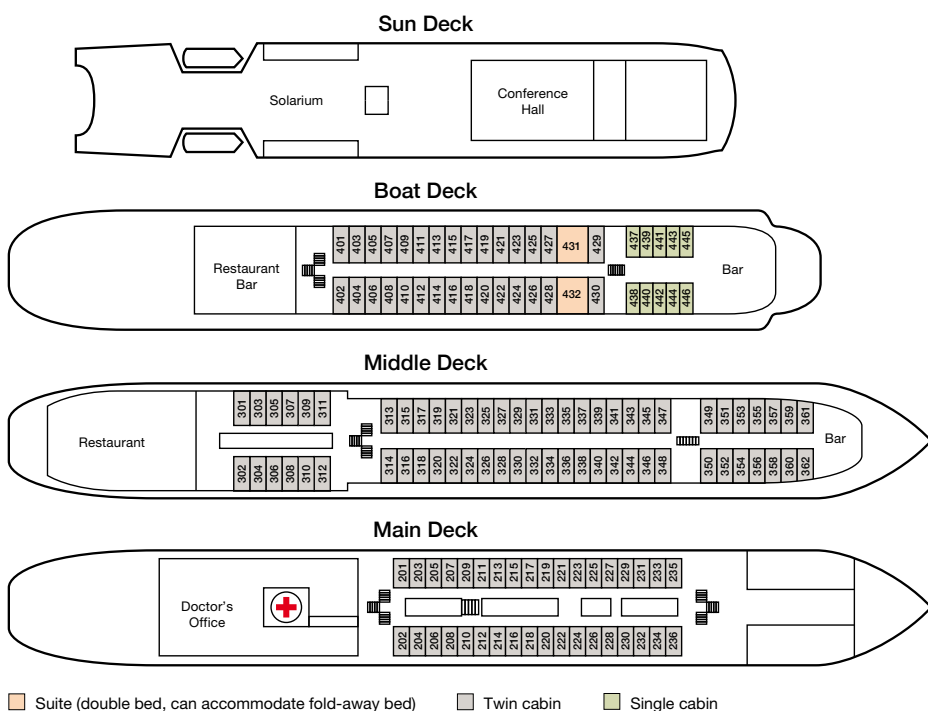
Bar



Suite



Twin cabin



Standard Cabin (approx.) 9m²

Quad cabins on Lower Deck (not illustrated) - available on request.



Ulaanbaatar, women in traditional dress

Tailor-made Rail Journeys

Travelling by rail independently

Introduction

Travelling by rail independently through Russia, Central Asia, Mongolia and China is a rewarding experience for travellers with an open mind and adventurous spirit who enjoy the freedom of creating their own unique itineraries and travelling at their own pace. You will need to have a sense of humour, patience and a degree of tenacity. Many seasoned travellers opt for the flexibility and security of pre-booked travel arrangements. You may take one of our suggested itineraries or ask us to tailor one to your requirements. Travelling independently on a tailor-made pre-booked itinerary offers a unique opportunity to meet the locals and experience their culture. Foreign travellers on these trains are usually in the minority, and are guaranteed to attract the curiosity and hospitality of the locals.



Mongolia, camels



Mongolia



Mongolia, Naadam Festival

Tailor-made Rail Journeys

Travelling by rail independently

About your trains

On board facilities are basic but adequate. Each carriage has a toilet with a wash basin at either end. Showers on board are the exception rather than the rule. While some routes now allow you to specify a ladies-own compartment, not all trains segregate the sexes, so there is the possibility you may find yourself sharing a compartment with travellers of the opposite sex. Sole occupation of your compartment can

be secured by paying for all the berths. 1st class compartments consist of 2 lower berths with a small table separating the bunks (Chinese trains may have an upper and lower berth). 2nd class sleepers are 4-berth - 2 up and 2 down, the upper berths fold up during the day. It is recommended that luggage should be light and kept to a minimum, as luggage storage is below the bottom bunks or above the door.

The trains are heated during winter and cooled by ventilation during the summer months. Meals are generally not included, but with the odd exception (e.g. Ulaanbaatar-Ulan Ude) there is a restaurant car on board. Unlimited hot water is available from your carriage attendant free of charge, so you can self-cater by bringing your own supply of tea, coffee, instant soup and noodles.



Dining car



2-berth compartment



4-berth compartment



Yekaterinburg railway station



Ulaanbaatar, railway station



Vladivostok

Premium Trans-Siberian

Tailor-made rail journey - 16 days/15 nights

Our Premium rail journeys are designed to provide you with a comprehensive program which includes stops at the most popular cities and sightseeing at all the major 'must see' sights - all with your own English speaking local guides. Also included are transfers throughout, centrally located hotels, and 2-berth rail compartments. This itinerary is a suggested one only, so if you would like something different we can tailor-make one to suit your needs. For examples of additional stopover options see page 40.

Inclusions

- 9 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 or 4-star hotels
- 6 nights in 2-berth rail compartment
- Arrival/departure transfers by car throughout with guide assistance
- Business class Sapsan train Moscow-St. Petersburg
- Sightseeing by car and on foot with local **English speaking** guides
- Vladivostok - City tour
- Irkutsk - City tour, Lake Baikal & Wooden Architecture Museum with lunch
- Moscow - City tour with St. Basil's Cathedral, Metro, Kremlin & Armoury Museum
- St. Petersburg - City tour with Church on Spilt Blood, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum, Peterhof Palace & gardens or Catherine's Palace at Pushkin

Your hotels

★★★★☆

- **Vladivostok** - Primorye (*deluxe*)
- **Irkutsk** - Angara (*business room*)
- **Moscow** - Budapest (*junior suite*)
- **St. Petersburg** - Golden Triangle (*superior room*)

★★★★☆

- **Vladivostok** - Lotte
- **Irkutsk** - Courtyard by Marriott
- **Moscow** - Peter 1
- **St. Petersburg** - Petro Palace

Westbound itinerary

Day 1 Vladivostok

Arrive Vladivostok. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Vladivostok.

Day 2 Vladivostok

The naval port of Vladivostok boasts the largest harbour in the Far East and was closed to foreigners during the Soviet era. Your city tour this morning covers all the major landmarks and viewing points. Overnight Vladivostok. **B**

Days 3-5 Vladivostok to Irkutsk

Evening transfer with guide assistance to the station for your departure to Irkutsk. The remainder of the day and next 3 nights you will be on board the train. Most long-distance Russian trains have a dining car

with inexpensive meals, or you can purchase food before departure or from vendors at stations where the train makes limited stops. **B**

Day 6 Irkutsk

Late afternoon arrival Irkutsk. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Irkutsk.

Day 7 Irkutsk

Full day tour to the lakeside town of Listvyanka and Lake Baikal, including a visit to the museum dedicated to the lake and the Open-air Wooden Architecture Museum at Taltsy. You'll visit the local fish market in Listvyanka, enjoy a delicious lunch, take a cable car ride for panoramic views of the lake and visit St. Nicholas

church, as well as the sacred place of the Buryat people. Overnight Irkutsk. **BL**

Days 8-10 Irkutsk to Moscow

Morning city tour of Irkutsk with your local guide. Founded in 1661, Irkutsk is famous for its wooden houses dating from the 19th century, when it was a gold-mining town and home to the exiled Decembrists. You will see the Polish Roman Catholic Cathedral, Karl Marx Street and monument to Alexander III. This afternoon you will be transferred with guide assistance to the railway station for your onward trip to Moscow. You'll travel through a number of large centres including Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg and Kazan. Take the time to meet your fellow passengers and see the changing landscape unfold. 3 nights on board. **B**

Day 11 Moscow

Afternoon arrival Moscow. You will be met and transferred to your centrally located hotel. Overnight Moscow.

Day 12 Moscow

Today's sightseeing includes a city tour of Moscow's major landmarks, including entrance to the iconic St. Basil's Cathedral - commissioned by Ivan the Terrible in 1522 to celebrate the capture of the Tatar city of Kazan. You then have a tour of the most spectacular stations of the Moscow Metro system. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 13 Moscow to St. Petersburg

After breakfast, visit the Kremlin grounds, where you will enter a cathedral and visit the State Armoury Museum, with its unique collection of crown jewels, costumes, carriages, Fabergé eggs and more. This afternoon, you will be transferred to the railway station to

catch your high-speed Sapsan train to St. Petersburg where you will be met and transferred to your centrally located hotel. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 14 St. Petersburg

This morning, your city tour introduces you to the major landmarks of this stunning northern city, including visits to Peter and Paul Fortress and the Church on Spilt Blood. This afternoon, your guide will take you on a private tour of the world famous Hermitage Museum. Its collections, of which only a small part is on permanent display, comprise over three million items. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 15 St. Petersburg

After breakfast, visit Peterhof (Petrodvorets) situated on the Gulf of Finland. It was commissioned by Peter the Great as a summer residence to rival Versailles. It is at its best during the summer months when the gardens put on a spectacular display of cascading fountains and golden statues. In winter, we recommend a visit to Catherine's Palace at Pushkin, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture. It can be overcrowded in summer. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 16 St. Petersburg

Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel		Twn	Sgl
★★★★☆	from	7106	POA
★★★★☆	from	7652	POA



Ulaanbaatar, Naadam Festival

Premium Trans-Mongolian

Tailor-made rail journey - 18 days/17 nights

Our premium program offers accommodation in central hotels, 2-berth rail compartments and comprehensive sightseeing at all your stopover points with your own English speaking local guide. This popular itinerary is tailor-made by us so is totally flexible. If you would like extra stopover points, longer stays, alternative accommodation or more sightseeing, just ask us and we'll create an itinerary just for you - we have been doing this for 33 years. For examples of additional stopover options see page 40.

Inclusions

- 10 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 or 4-star hotels
- 2 nights in Mongolian ger with full board
- 5 nights in 2-berth rail compartment
- Arrival/departure transfers throughout by private car with guide assistance
- Business class high speed Sapsan train Moscow-St. Petersburg
- Sightseeing by car and on foot with local **English speaking** guides
- Beijing - Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Summer Palace tour
- Ulaanbaatar - City tour
- Terej National Park 3 day/2 night tour including Genghis Khan statue
- Irkutsk - City tour, Lake Baikal & Wooden Architecture Museum with lunch
- Moscow - City tour with St. Basil's Cathedral, Metro, Kremlin & Armoury Museum
- St. Petersburg - City tour with Church on Spilt Blood, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum, Peterhof Palace & gardens or Catherine's Palace at Pushkin

Your hotels

- **Terej National Park** - ger camp
★★★★★
- **Beijing** - Howard Johnson Paragon
- **Ulaanbaatar** - Bayangol
- **Irkutsk** - Angara (*business*)
- **Moscow** - Budapest (*junior suite*)
- **St. Petersburg** - Golden Triangle (*superior*)
★★★★★
- **Beijing** - Howard Johnson Paragon
- **Ulaanbaatar** - Ramada
- **Irkutsk** - Courtyard Marriot
- **Moscow** - Peter I
- **St. Petersburg** - Petro Palace

Westbound itinerary

Day 1 Beijing

Arrive Beijing and be transferred by car and guide to your hotel. Overnight Beijing.

Day 2 Beijing

Full day tour of the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and Summer Palace. Overnight Beijing. **B**

Day 3 Beijing to Ulaanbaatar

You will be transferred, with guide assistance, to the station for your morning departure to Ulaanbaatar. Border formalities for entry to Mongolia will be finalised on the train in the early hours of the following morning. Overnight on board. **B**

Day 4 Ulaanbaatar

Arrive early afternoon, meet our local representative and enjoy a city tour before being transferred by car to your hotel. Overnight Ulaanbaatar.

Day 5 Terej National Park

After breakfast, meet your guide and driver and travel 70 km to the Terej National Park, where you will spend two nights in a ger. After lunch at the camp, you spend the afternoon walking in the surrounding hills. Dinner and overnight at ger camp. **BLD**

Day 6 Terej National Park

This morning, you explore the surrounding hills with fascinating rock formations and visit a local meditation centre. After lunch, visit a nomadic family. You will have the opportunity to ride a horse or camel (additional cost). Overnight ger camp. **BLD**

Day 7 Terej to Ulaanbaatar & Irkutsk

After breakfast, return via the Genghis Khan statue to Ulaanbaatar for free time to shop and explore before transferring to the station for your mid-afternoon departure to Irkutsk. You complete border formalities in the early hours of the morning and cross into Russia. **B**

Day 8 Ulaanbaatar & Irkutsk

Afternoon arrival Irkutsk. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Irkutsk.

Day 9 Irkutsk to Moscow

Full day tour to Listvyanka, Lake Baikal and the Museum of Lake Baikal. Enjoy lunch at the fish market at Listvyanka, visit the Museum of Wooden Architecture and visit St. Nicholas church. Overnight Irkutsk. **BL**

Days 10-12 Irkutsk to Moscow

Morning city tour of Irkutsk, with your local guide. Founded in 1661, Irkutsk is famous for its wooden houses dating from the 19th century, when it was home to the exiled Decembrists. This afternoon you will be transferred with guide assistance, to the railway station for your onward trip to Moscow. Travel through some large centres including Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg and Kazan. Meet your fellow passengers and see the changing landscape. The train also

has a dining car with traditional dishes at reasonable prices. 3 nights on board. **B**

Day 13 Moscow

Afternoon arrival Moscow. You will be met and transferred to your centrally located hotel. Overnight Moscow.

Day 14 Moscow to St. Petersburg

Today's sightseeing includes a city tour with entrance to St. Basil's Cathedral, then a tour of some spectacular stations of the Moscow Metro. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 15 St. Petersburg

After breakfast, visit the Kremlin grounds, a cathedral and the State Armoury Museum, with its collection of crown jewels, costumes, carriages and Fabergé eggs. This afternoon, you will be transferred to the railway station to catch your high-speed Sapsan train to St. Petersburg. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 16 St. Petersburg

Your morning city tour introduces you to the major landmarks of this stunning northern city, including visits to Peter and Paul Fortress and the Church on Spilt Blood. This afternoon your guide will take you on a private tour of the famous Hermitage Museum. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 17 St. Petersburg

After breakfast, travel to the Gulf of Finland to visit Peterhof Palace and Gardens, commissioned by Peter the Great as a summer palace to rival Versailles. In summer months its attractions are cascading fountains and golden statues. In winter, visit Catherine's Palace at Pushkin, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 18 St. Petersburg

Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel		Twn	Sgl
★★★★★	from	7627	POA
★★★★★	from	7965	POA



Mongolia, national costume

The Ultimate Trans-Mongolian

Tailor-made rail journey - 23 days/22 nights

Travel on the world's longest and most famous rail journey from Beijing to Moscow and then on to St. Petersburg. Unforgettable.

Inclusions

- 16 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels
- Terelj National Park - 2-day tour including all meals, overnight stay in a ger and visit to Genghis Khan statue
- 5 nights in 2-berth rail compartment or 4-berth for twin use
- Meals - 4 lunches, 1 dinner
- Arrival/departure transfers throughout by private car with guide assistance
- Business class Sapsan train Moscow-St. Petersburg
- Sightseeing by car and on foot with local **English speaking** guides
- Ulaanbaatar - City tour & Gandan Monastery
- Khustain Nuruu National Park

- Irkutsk - City tour, Lake Baikal, Listvyanka and Taltsy Open-air Museum
- Yekaterinburg - City tour including Church on the Blood, Romanovs' grave site, Europe/Asia Divide
- Kazan - City tour & Kremlin
- Moscow - City tour with visit to St. Basil's Cathedral, Metro, Kremlin, cathedral & Armoury Museum
- St. Petersburg - City tour with Church on Spilt Blood, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum, Peterhof Palace & gardens or Catherine's Palace at Pushkin

Your hotels

- **Beijing** - Howard Johnson
- **Ulaanbaatar** - Ramada
- **Irkutsk** - Courtyard by Marriot
- **Listvyanka** - Mayak (3-star)
- **Yekaterinburg** - Park Inn by Radisson
- **Kazan** - Shalyapin
- **Moscow** - Peter I
- **St. Petersburg** - Petro Palace

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Beijing

Arrive Beijing. You will be met by your guide and transferred by private car to your central 4-star hotel. Overnight Beijing.

Day 2 Beijing to Ulaanbaatar

Cross the pedestrian overpass, with guide assistance, to the railway station, to board your train. Overnight on train. **B**

Day 3 Ulaanbaatar

Mid-afternoon arrival Ulaanbaatar, the capital and largest city of Mongolia. It was originally a nomadic Buddhist centre. You will be met by your guide and taken on a city tour covering the major landmarks, including Chinggis Square and the National History Museum. You will then be transferred to your centrally located hotel. Overnight Ulaanbaatar.

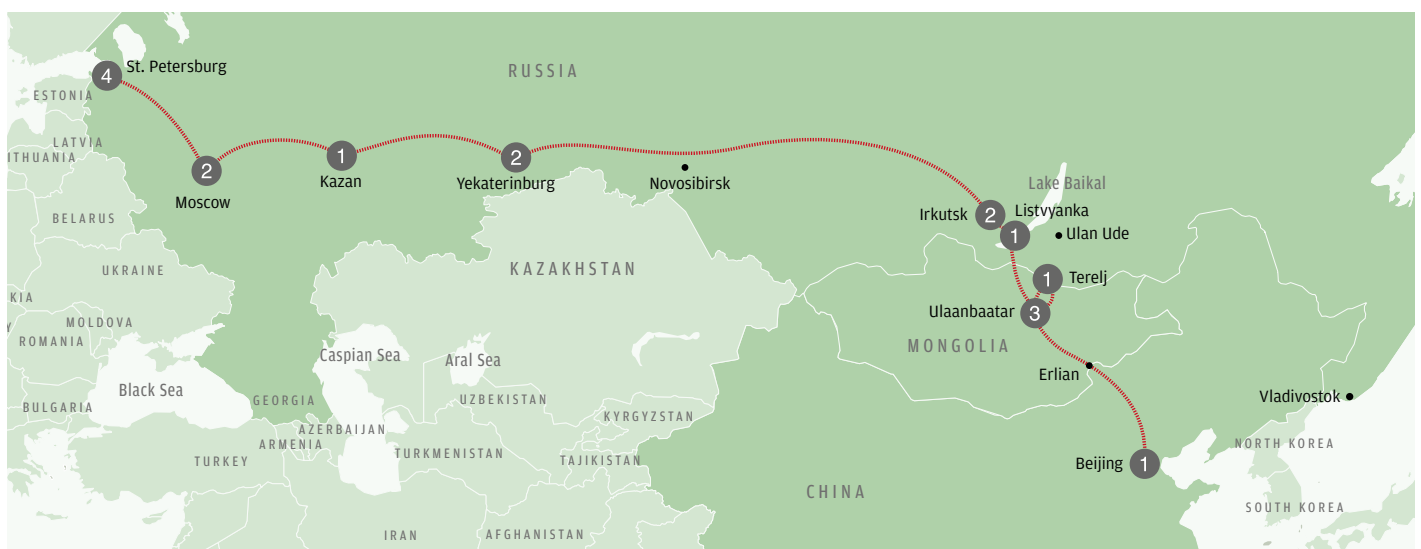
Day 4 Terelj National Park

Meet your guide and driver and visit the Gandan Monastery 'Great Place of Complete Joy', before travelling 70 km to the Terelj National Park to overnight in a traditional ger. The park has fascinating rock formations and scenery with abundant wildlife. Enjoy lunch at the ger camp then visit a local family living in a traditional ger, see Turtle Rock and have

time to ride a horse or camel (extra cost). Then free time to explore the surrounding countryside. Dinner and overnight at the ger camp. **BLD**

Day 5 Ulaanbaatar

After breakfast, travel back to Ulaanbaatar via the spectacular Genghis Khan Statue and Monument complex. Overnight Ulaanbaatar. **BL**





Lake Baikal, Shaman's Rock

Day 6 Khustain Nuruu National Park

Today you have a full day tour to where the Mongolian government reintroduced the Przewalski's horse, the only remaining true wild horse in the world. You'll take a walk in the park, see the wild horses grazing, and enjoy lunch at a ger camp. Overnight Ulaanbaatar. **BL**

Day 7 Ulaanbaatar to Irkutsk

Free time this morning for shopping for souvenirs from the comprehensive range at the State Department Store. Purchase some food for your journey and transfer to the station for your departure. Overnight on train. **B**

Day 8 Irkutsk & Lake Baikal

You complete border crossing procedures in the early hours of the morning and arrive in Irkutsk mid-afternoon. You will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel in Listvyanka. Overnight Listvyanka.

Day 9 Lake Baikal & Irkutsk

This morning you explore the lakeside town of Listvyanka, where you'll visit the Museum of Lake Baikal and the local fish markets. After lunch at a local restaurant, explore the Museum of Wooden Architecture at Talsy and then transfer to Irkutsk. Overnight Irkutsk. **BL**

Day 10 Irkutsk

After breakfast, you have a city tour of Irkutsk, the gateway to Lake Baikal. It was

founded in the 17th century as a trading post for gold and furs. In the early 19th century many Russian artists, officers and noblemen were exiled there for their part in the Decembrist revolt against Tsar Nicholas I. Much of the city's cultural heritage and architecture stems from that period. Overnight Irkutsk. **B**

Day 11 Irkutsk to Yekaterinbug

Free morning to explore independently. This afternoon, your guide will accompany you to the rail station to board your train for Yekaterinburg. Overnight on train. **B**

Day 12 On board

Today you spend the day on the train. The train has a dining car or you can buy food at one of the stops, but don't get left behind! Overnight on train.

Day 13 Yekaterinburg

Arrive Yekaterinburg early afternoon and transfer with guide assistance to your hotel. Enjoy a city tour including the Church on the Blood. Overnight Yekaterinburg.

Day 14 Yekaterinburg

Today visit the Monastery on Romanovs' grave site as well as the Europe/Asia Divide. Overnight Yekaterinburg. **B**

Day 15 Yekaterinburg to Kazan

After breakfast, your guide will accompany you to the rail station for your journey

to Kazan. Upon arrival, your local guide will meet and transfer you to your hotel. Overnight Kazan. **B**

Day 16 Kazan to Moscow

This morning, you have a city tour of Kazan - the capital of Tatarstan, with over 50 percent of its population descended from Central Asian tribes. This evening, your guide will accompany you to the rail station for your journey to Moscow. Overnight on board. **B**

Day 17 Moscow

Morning arrival Moscow, where you will be met by your guide and transferred to your centrally located hotel. This afternoon you will have a city tour, including entrance to the iconic St. Basil's Cathedral and a tour of the famous Moscow Metro. Overnight Moscow.

Day 18 Moscow

This morning, enjoy a tour of the Kremlin and Armoury Museum, part of the Grand Kremlin Palace's complex. Afternoon and evening free for optional sightseeing or ballet (ask for details). Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 19 Moscow to St. Petersburg

The morning is free, until your transfer with guide assistance to the rail station, for your high speed train to St. Petersburg where you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 20 St. Petersburg

After breakfast, meet your guide for your city tour, which includes visits to the Church on Spilt Blood and Peter and Paul Fortress. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 21 St. Petersburg

This morning, you visit the magnificent Hermitage Museum, housing one of the largest collections of Western European Art in the world. Once your guided tour has finished, you may stay on to further explore the museum at your own pace. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 22 St. Petersburg

Today, choose from two out-of-town excursions - in summer we recommend Peterhof Palace and gardens on the Gulf of Finland, commissioned by Peter the Great as a response to the Palace of Versailles, in winter, the Baroque Catherine's Palace in the town of Pushkin with its famous Amber Chamber. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 23 St. Petersburg

The tour ends today with your transfer to the airport or railway station. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Departures		Twn	Sgl
2020	from	9986	POA



Beijing, Forbidden City



Mongolia, ger camp

Photo: Marcin Konsek / Wikimedia Commons



Kazan, Qolsharif Mosque

Trans-Siberian/Mongolian Explorer

Tailor-made rail journey 28 days/27 nights

Can't choose between the Trans-Siberian or Trans-Mongolian? This combination offers you the best of both itineraries.

Inclusions

- 17 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 or 4-star hotels
- 2 nights in ger camp at Terelj with full board
- 8 nights in 2-berth rail compartment or 4-berth for twin use
- Business class Sapsan train Moscow-St. Petersburg
- Arrival/departure transfers throughout by private car with guide assistance
- Sightseeing by car and on foot with local **English speaking** guides
- Vladivostok - City tour
- Ulan Ude - City tour
- Ulaanbaatar - City tour
- Terelj National Park - 3 day/2 night tour including Genghis Khan Statue
- Irkutsk - City tour, Lake Baikal, Listvyanka & Taltsy Open-air Museum
- Yekaterinburg - City tour including Church on the Blood and Monastery on Romanovs' secret grave site, Europe/Asia divide
- Kazan - City tour
- Moscow - City tour with visit to St. Basil's Cathedral, Metro, Kremlin, cathedral & Armoury Museum
- St. Petersburg - City tour with Church on Spilt Blood, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum, Peterhof Palace & gardens or Catherine's Palace at Pushkin

Your hotels

- ★★★★
- Vladivostok - Primorye (*deluxe*)
 - Ulan Ude - Sagan Morin
 - Ulaanbaatar - Bayangol
 - Irkutsk - Angara (*business*)
 - Yekaterinburg - Chekhov
 - Kazan - Ibis
 - Moscow - Budapest (*junior suite*)
 - St. Petersburg - Golden Triangle (*superior*)

- ★★★★
- Vladivostok - Lotte
 - Ulan Ude - Sagan Morin
 - Ulaanbaatar - Ramada
 - Irkutsk - Courtyard Marriott
 - Yekaterinburg - Park Inn Radisson
 - Kazan - Shalyapin
 - Moscow - Peter I
 - St. Petersburg - Petro Palace

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

Day 6 Ulan Ude

Afternoon arrival Ulan Ude. You will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Ulan Ude.

Day 7 Ulan Ude

Morning city tour of Ulan Ude, known for its wooden merchants' houses, fashionable squares and the world's largest statue of Lenin's head. Overnight Ulan Ude. **B**

Day 8 Ulan Ude to Ulaanbaatar

Morning at leisure. This afternoon, you will be transferred to the station, with guide assistance to board your train to Ulaanbaatar. Overnight on board. **B**

Day 9 Ulaanbaatar

Early morning arrival Ulaanbaatar. You will be met by your guide and checked in to your hotel. After breakfast, begin your city tour covering the major landmarks, including the National History Museum and Gandan Monastery. Overnight Ulaanbaatar. **B**

Day 1 Vladivostok

Arrive Vladivostok where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Vladivostok.

Day 2 Vladivostok

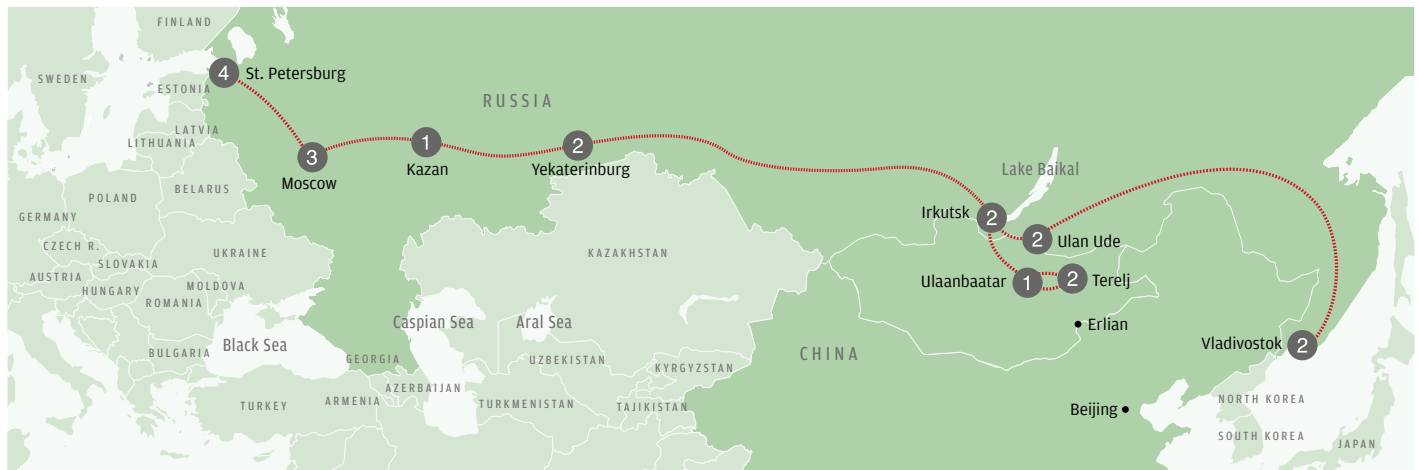
This morning, your city tour by car includes the major historic and cultural landmarks and view-points. Overnight Vladivostok. **B**

Days 3-5 Vladivostok to Ulan Ude

Day at leisure. Evening transfer with guide assistance to the railway station to board your train to Ulan Ude. 3 nights on board. **B**

Day 10 Terelj National Park

After breakfast, meet your guide and driver and travel 70 km to the Terelj





Mongolian horseman

National Park, where you will spend two nights in a traditional ger. After lunch at the camp, you spend the afternoon walking in the surrounding hills. Dinner and overnight at the ger camp. **BLD**

Day 11 Terelj National Park

After breakfast, an excursion in the National Park to explore the surrounding hills with their fascinating rock formations and a visit to a local meditation centre. After lunch, visit a nomadic family to experience their lifestyle. You will have the opportunity to ride a horse or camel (not included). Overnight ger camp. **BLD**

Day 12 Terelj National Park to Ulaanbaatar & Irkutsk

This morning, you leave the ger camp and visit the spectacular Genghis Khan Statue complex, before returning to Ulaanbaatar, where you board your mid-afternoon train for Irkutsk. Overnight on board. **B**

Day 13 Irkutsk

Border crossing procedures will take place in the early hours of the morning, with a late afternoon arrival Irkutsk, where you will be met by your driver and guide and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Irkutsk.

Day 14 Irkutsk & Lake Baikal

Full day tour to Listvyanka and Lake Baikal. You will visit the Lake Baikal Museum and the Open-air Museum of Wooden Architecture at Taltsy. Enjoy lunch at the local fish market and take a cable car ride for panoramic views of the lake.

You will also visit St. Nicholas Church and the sacred place of the Buryat people. Overnight Irkutsk. **BL**

Days 15-16 Irkutsk to Yekaterinburg

Morning city tour of Irkutsk with your local guide. Founded in 1661, Irkutsk is famous for its wooden houses dating from the 19th century when it was a gold-mining town and home to the exiled Decembrists. See the Polish Roman Catholic Cathedral, Karl Marx Street and the monument to Alexander III. This afternoon, you will be transferred with guide assistance to the railway station for your onward trip to Yekaterinburg. Overnight on board. **B**

Day 17 Yekaterinburg

Early afternoon arrival Yekaterinburg. You will be met and transferred to your hotel and then commence your city tour. Your tour includes a visit to the Church on the Blood, built on the site of the execution of Romanovs. Overnight Yekaterinburg.

Day 18 Yekaterinburg

This morning, you visit the Monastery on the Romanovs' secret gravesite and the 30-metre high red marble obelisk where Asia and Europe meet. Overnight Yekaterinburg. **B**

Day 19 Yekaterinburg to Kazan

This morning, you will be transferred to the railway station with guide assistance, to board your train to Kazan, arriving in the evening. You will be met by your guide and driver and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Kazan. **B**

Day 20 Kazan to Moscow

This morning, you have a city tour of Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, with over 50 percent of its population descended from Central Asian tribes. Afternoon free and an evening departure for Moscow. Overnight on board. **B**

Day 21 Arrival Moscow

Afternoon arrival Moscow. You will be met and transferred to your centrally located hotel. Overnight Moscow.

Day 22 Moscow

Today's sightseeing includes a city tour with entrance to St. Basil's Cathedral, then a tour of some of the most spectacular stations of the Moscow Metro. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 23 Moscow

After breakfast, visit the Kremlin grounds, where you will enter a cathedral and visit the State Armoury Museum, with its unique collection of crown jewels, costumes, carriages, Fabergé eggs and more. Overnight Moscow. **B**

Day 24 Moscow to St. Petersburg

This afternoon, you will be transferred to the railway station to catch your high-speed Sapsan train to St. Petersburg. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your centrally located hotel. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 25 St. Petersburg

This morning, your city tour introduces you to the major landmarks of this stunning

northern city, including visits to Peter and Paul Fortress and the Church on Spilt Blood. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 26 St. Petersburg

This morning, you visit the magnificent Hermitage Museum, housing one of the largest collections of Western European Art in the world. Once your guided tour has finished, you may stay on to further explore the museum at your own pace. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 27 St. Petersburg

Today you may choose from two out-of-town excursions - Peterhof Palace and gardens on the Gulf of Finland - In summer months its standout attractions are the spectacular cascading fountains and golden statues, or the Baroque Catherine's Palace in the town of Pushkin, with its famous Amber Room, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture. Over 100 kilograms of gold were used to gild the stucco façade. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 28 St. Petersburg

Tour services end today with your transfer to the airport or railway station. **B**

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel		Twn	Sgl
★★★★★	from	11281	POA
★★★★★	from	12079	POA



Ulaanbaatar, Winter Palace



Lake Baikal



Ulan Ude, dancers

Tailor-made rail journeys

Not to be missed places to explore

You are going on a journey of a lifetime, so don't rush this trip and miss out on some of the most fascinating destinations on the way. These are just some of our suggested stopovers you may take to enrich your rail journey experience. And we can tailor-make your journey to include Shanghai, Xian, Harbin ... wherever you want.



Beijing, Tiananmen Square

Beijing

So much to see in the Imperial City - the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Summer Palace, and with more time - the Temple of Heaven, Great Wall and Ming Tombs.

Ulaanbaatar

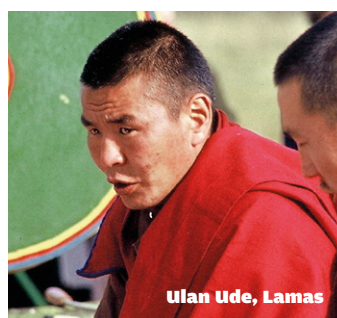
Please refer to tour options on page 41.



Vladivostok

Vladivostok

This Far Eastern naval port, with its ideal location on Golden Horn Bay, near the borders of China and North Korea, is Russia's largest harbour and was closed to foreigners during the Soviet era. Its railway station dates from the 17th century and you have the opportunity to visit the C-56 Submarine Museum.



Ulan Ude, Lamas

Ulan Ude

This attractive provincial town is known for its wooden merchants' houses, fashionable squares and the largest statue of Lenin in the world. A worthwhile excursion out of the city is the village of the Old Believers, that refused to accept the 1652 decree which changed the Russian Liturgy. They now live in isolated communities around the world.



Yekaterinburg, Railway Station

Yekaterinburg

The last Tsar, Nicholas II and his family were executed here. It lies on the border of Europe and Asia and was founded in 1723 and named after Tsar Peter the Great's wife Catherine I. The most important attraction is the Church on the Spilt Blood, which was the site of the Romanovs' execution.



Irkutsk

Irkutsk & Lake Baikal/Listvyanka

Founded in 1661, Irkutsk has preserved its late 19th century architecture from when it boomed as a gold mining town, attracting aristocratic exiles, missionaries and convicts. Today, the city is mainly known as the gateway to Lake Baikal, the world's deepest and oldest freshwater lake. We recommend you take our full day tour to Listvyanka to visit the biological museum and the beautiful open-air wooden architecture museum at Taltsy. For railway enthusiasts, the Circumbaikal Railway tour is a must, travelling along the shores of Lake Baikal, with opportunities for photo-stops.



Novosibirsk, Opera House

Novosibirsk

Novosibirsk is Russia's largest and most Soviet city. It owes its growth and importance to the Trans-Siberian Railway. Attractions include the Siberian Railway Museum, the world's largest opera house and the 19th century, golden-domed Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.



Kazan

Kazan

Kazan is one of Russia's oldest cities and also the capital of the oil-rich region of Tatarstan. With over 50 percent of the population having descended from Central Asian tribes, the spires of many mosques dot the skyline. It is known for the centuries old Kazan Kremlin.



Terej, Turtle Rock

Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar stopover – 3 days/2 nights

Mongolia Discovery – 8 days/7 nights

Inclusions

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- City tour by car with **English speaking** guide

Your hotels

- **Bayangol** ★★★★★
Large well equipped superior tourist class hotel near the centre.
- **Ramada** ★★★★★
First class hotel of international standard with excellent reviews.
- **Best Western Premier Tuushin** ★★★★★
Superior first class hotel centrally located near Chinggis Square and the Parliament.

Privately escorted tour

Discover Mongolia – vast deserts, ancient Karakorum, lively Ulaanbaatar, wild Mongolian horses, ger camps, and the Terej National Park and Genghis Khan statue.

Inclusions

- Accommodation – 3 nights with breakfast in 3-star hotel in Ulaanbaatar,
- 4 nights with breakfast in ger camps
- Meals – 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Comprehensive touring and sightseeing in 4-wheel drive vehicle with **English speaking** guide.

Stopover prices

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Applicable Jan-Dec 2020.

Hotel/Season	Stopover	
	Twn	Sgl
BAYANGOL ★★★★★		
1 Jan-31 Dec	390	620
RAMADA ★★★★★		
1 Jan-31 Dec	482	819
BEST WESTERN PREMIER TUUSHIN ★★★★★		
1 Jan-31 Dec	544	907

■ Prices increase for Naadam Festival.

Sightseeing

City tour (4 hrs)

With your own driver and guide visit Ulaanbaatar's main sights including Chinggis Square, the Gandan Monastery and National History Museum (entrance included).

Daily.

Terej National Park (8 hrs)

Situated 70 km from Ulaanbaatar, the park has fascinating rock formations and amazing scenery. It is home to brown bear and abundant birdlife. Walk through the Turtle Rock area, visit a nomadic family, enjoy lunch in a traditional ger camp and also have time to ride a horse or camel (at extra cost).

from \$188 per person. Daily.

Stay in a Ger – 2 days/1 night

No visit to Mongolia is complete without an overnight stay in a ger (yurt). With your own driver and guide you'll travel from Ulaanbaatar to the beautiful Terej National Park. There, enjoy its amazing scenery, see the abundant birdlife, take a walk in the peaceful countryside, and visit Turtle Rock. You'll visit a nomadic family and have the opportunity to ride a

horse or camel (at extra cost). Full board is included and you overnight in a very comfortable traditional ger. Next day, you will have some free time followed by a visit to the spectacular and unforgettable Genghis Khan Statue and Monument complex before returning to Ulaanbaatar.

BLD

from \$443 per person. Daily.

Day 1 Ulaanbaatar

Arrive and be transferred to the Bayangol hotel. Overnight Ulaanbaatar.

Day 2 Ulaanbaatar to Mongol Els Sand Dunes

Travel with 4-wheel drive and guide to spend an exciting day in the vast Mongol Els sand dunes. Overnight in ger camp.

BLD

Day 3 Mongol Els Sand Dunes to Karakorum

Travel to the ancient capital of Genghis Khan for a day of sightseeing and visit the majestic Erdene Zuu Monastery. Overnight ger camp.

BLD

Day 4 Karakorum to Khustain Nuruu National Park

Today see wild animals like deer, eagles and marmot as well as the famous Przewalski wild horse – the world's oldest. Overnight ger camp.

BLD

Day 5 Khustain Nuruu to Ulaanbaatar

Back in Ulaanbaatar, enjoy a city tour with time for shopping for quality souvenirs and cashmere. Evening folklore concert and dinner. Overnight Ulaanbaatar.

BD

Day 6 Ulaanbaatar to Terej National Park

Depart Ulaanbaatar and travel to the stunning Terej National Park to enjoy its

flora, fauna and unusual rock formations. Overnight in ger camp.

BLD

Day 7 Terej National Park to Ulaanbaatar

First travel to meet a nomadic family to experience their lifestyle and later visit the Genghis Khan Monument complex with its massive dramatic 40-metre high statue. Overnight Ulaanbaatar.

BL

Day 8 Ulaanbaatar

Tour services end after breakfast with a transfer to the station or airport.

B

■ Detailed itinerary available on request.

Tour price

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Jan-Dec 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Dec	2880	3251
If only one person on tour		4354

Tailor-made Naadam Festival

Every July Ulaanbaatar hosts the spectacular Naadam Festival with its traditional Mongolian sports. We can create tailor-made Naadam Festival Stopovers. Minimum 4 nights applies.



Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express



Luxury tour by private train

Welcome aboard the Golden Eagle, the only private train of its kind operating in this part of the world. This fully en-suite private touring train brings unprecedented luxury to the world's greatest railway journey - the Trans-Siberian. Whether you have always wanted to discover Siberia's grand wilderness, Mongolia's nomadic culture, Central Asia's ancient history or the stunning Caucasus region, you will find a journey to inspire you. The comfortable, en-suite cabins were fully re-furnished in 2018, with friendly cabin attendants on call 24 hours a day. In the restaurant cars, you will enjoy a culinary experience reflecting the very essence of Russia, as well as international cuisine, complemented by excellent wines from around the world. In the evening relax in the Bar Lounge Car, the social heart of the train, and be entertained by the resident pianist.

On board accommodation

Imperial Suites

At 11.1m², Imperial Suites are the most spacious cabins on the Golden Eagle, with a fixed, large double bed (width 1.5m) and sitting area with two large picture windows, dressing table, private en-suite bathroom with power shower, underfloor heating and bathrobes, individual air-conditioning, wardrobe, safe, complimentary minibar and a DVD/CD player with LCD screen. Other benefits include drinks from the Standard and Premium Bar Car List, laundry service, the option of a private guide and car and upgraded accommodation for the hotel stays.



Gold Class

Gold Class cabins are 7m², with a double lower bed (width 1.35m) and single upper bed (width 85cm). They feature individual air-conditioning, DVD/CD player with LCD screen, wardrobe, safe, large picture window and an en-suite bathroom with separate power shower, toilet, underfloor heating and bathrobes. Drinks from the Standard Bar Car List are complimentary.



Silver Class

Silver Class cabins are the most compact at 5.5m² and feature a small double lower (width 1.1m) bed and single upper bed (width 85cm), DVD/CD player with LCD screen, safe, individual air-conditioning, wardrobe and large picture window. Silver Class has its own private en-suite 'wet room' style shower and toilet.





Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express

Luxury tour by private train - 15 days/14 nights

Inclusions

- 12 nights accommodation with private en-suite on board the Golden Eagle
- 1 night each in Vladivostok and Moscow at deluxe or best available hotels
- All meals with generous drinks allowance, tea, coffee & mineral water 24 hours, welcome bottle of vodka, Gala Caviar Dinner
- Tour Manager, Doctor on board
- Arrival/departure transfers
- Sightseeing in **English only** with headsets & Freedom of Choice Touring
- Educational and live music programs on board
- Porterage & all gratuities
- Golden Eagle backpack (one per cabin)

Westbound itinerary

Day 1 Vladivostok

Arrive Vladivostok. You will be met and transferred to the Hotel Lotte. Meet your fellow travellers at tonight's Welcome Dinner. **D**

Day 2 Vladivostok

Morning sightseeing of Russia's Far Eastern naval port, including a restored WWII submarine. After a champagne send-off complete with military band, board the Golden Eagle Trans-Siberian Express and begin your epic rail journey. **BLD**

Day 3 Khabarovsk

Stop at Khabarovsk, just 25 km from the Chinese border, for a city tour and a visit to the Regional Museum. Reboard your train and cross the Amur River. **BLD**

Day 4 On board

Full day on board to watch the unfolding landscape. You may also wish to attend a lecture on board or Russian language lessons. **BLD**

Day 5 On board

Another full day travelling allows you to relax, improve your Russian, watch a DVD or socialise in the Bar Lounge Car. **BLD**

Day 6 Ulaanbaatar

Arrival in Mongolia, home of Genghis Khan. Your city tour of Ulaanbaatar

includes a visit to the Gandan Monastery. Then drive to Terelj National Park to visit a nomadic family in their traditional ger. Alternatively, you may remain in Ulaanbaatar for more sightseeing before reboarding your train. **BLD**

Day 7 Ulan Ude

Arrival in Ulan Ude, capital of the Buryat Republic. Explore the Old Believers' Village, learn about its culture and history and enjoy a traditional concert. **BLD**

Day 8 Lake Baikal

For 5 hours, the train is hauled by a Soviet-era steam locomotive, winding its way through tunnels along cliff-hugging tracks above Lake Baikal. Continue with a boat trip to Listvyanka, a small Baikal settlement nestling at the base of the surrounding hills. Weather permitting, enjoy a delicious barbeque on the shore of Lake Baikal. **BLD**

Day 9 Irkutsk

Explore Irkutsk's most significant sites and museums. See the distinctive wooden architecture and enjoy a private concert in the Volkonsky House Museum, dedicated to exiled aristocrats. **BLD**

Day 10 On board

A day to relax, unwind and enjoy the ever-changing landscape as the train makes its way to Novosibirsk. **BLD**

Day 11 Novosibirsk

Novosibirsk is a modern 'Soviet' city. Your city tour includes the Opera House, the largest in the world, housing two permanent opera and ballet companies. **BLD**

Day 12 Yekaterinburg

Founded in 1723 by Peter the Great, Yekaterinburg is the capital of the Urals. Your city tour includes the poignant site where the last tsar Nicholas II and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks in 1918. The train crosses the Europe/Asia divide after leaving Yekaterinburg. **BLD**

Day 13 Kazan

Arrival in Kazan, the capital of the Tatarstan Republic, situated on the Volga

River. One of the highlights of today's city tour is the Kremlin, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Within the walls of this ancient citadel is a stunning mosque and magnificent onion-domed cathedral. **BLD**

Day 14 Moscow

Arrive Moscow. Your city tour includes the Kremlin and Armoury Museum or you may choose from Freedom of Choice options. Transfer to the luxurious Four Seasons Hotel Moscow for your final night. **BLD**

Day 15 Moscow

Your tour services end today with a transfer to the airport. Or you may choose to extend your stay in Moscow or continue to St. Petersburg. **B**

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in **USD**. Applicable 2020/2021.

Departures	Silver Class		Gold Class		Imperial Suite	
	Twn	Sgl	Twn	Sgl	Twn	Sgl
2020						
Westbound: Vladivostok-Moscow						
16 May, 13 Jun	16995	25195	20995	30595	34695	69295
8 Aug, 5 Sep	18195	26695	21995	33195	38195	76295
Eastbound: Moscow-Vladivostok						
3 May, 31 May	16995	25195	20995	30595	34695	69295
26 Jul, 23 Aug	18195	26695	21995	33195	38195	76295
2021						
Westbound: Vladivostok-Moscow						
15 May, 12 Jun	17695	26495	21795	35995	35995	71895
7 Aug, 4 Sep	18995	28495	22895	37995	39795	79495
Eastbound: Moscow-Vladivostok						
2 May, 30 May	17695	26495	21795	35995	35995	71895
25 Jul, 22 Aug	18995	28495	22895	37995	39795	79495

Other itineraries available: Trans-Mongolian with Naadam, Winter Wonderland, Arctic Explorer, Land of the Midnight Sun, Silk Road, Caspian Odyssey and more... Ask us for details



Samarkand

NEW

Republics of the Silk Road



Luxury tour by private train

Welcome aboard the Golden Eagle, the only private train of its kind operating in Central Asia, offering fully en-suite accommodation. For centuries, merchants and adventurers journeyed on ancient routes through some of the most testing landscapes in the world trading silk, perfumes and spices. These 'highways' collectively came to be called the 'Silk Road', which many Golden Eagle passengers have explored on the traditional Silk Road tour from Beijing to Moscow. Now, the Golden Eagle offers a brand new tour for April 2020: Republics of the Silk Road. Departing from Moscow, this fascinating rail journey will take guests through the famous Five Stans, the Southern Republics of the former Soviet Union - Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.



Turkmenistan, Merv



Kyrgyzstan, Issyk-Kul





uzbekistan, folk dancers

Republics of the Silk Road

Luxury tour by private train - 17 days/16 nights

Inclusions

- 14 nights accommodation with private en-suite on board the Golden Eagle
- 1 night each in Moscow and Almaty in deluxe or best available hotels
- All meals with generous drinks allowance, tea, coffee & mineral water 24 hours, welcome bottle of vodka, Gala Caviar Dinner
- Tour Manager, doctor on board
- Arrival/departure transfers
- Sightseeing in **English only** with headsets & Freedom of Choice Touring
- Educational and live music programs on board
- Porterage and all gratuities
- Golden Eagle backpack (one per cabin)

Day 1 Moscow

Arrive Moscow. You will be met and transferred to the luxurious Four Seasons Hotel Moscow, a short walk from the Kremlin and Red Square. Meet your fellow travellers at a champagne drinks reception, followed by an exclusive Welcome Dinner. Overnight Moscow. **D**

Day 2 Moscow

Your touring program today includes the Kremlin and Armoury Museum, followed by a visit to St. Basil's Cathedral and a stroll around Red Square. Lunch is served at the legendary Café Pushkin. After a champagne send-off, board the Golden Eagle and begin your amazing journey. **BLD**

Day 3 On board

A day to relax, unwind and enjoy the ever-changing landscape. **BLD**

Day 4 Baikonur

Baikonur was constructed in the late 1950s as the base of operations for its space program. Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space was launched from here in 1961 and the base is still in operation, supplying the International Space Station. **BLD**

Day 5 Kokand

Kokand is the main transportation junction in the Fergana Valley, Uzbekistan. Visit the Khudayar Khan Fortress and its remaining buildings and courtyards. **BLD**

Day 6 Osh, Andizhan & Margilan

Morning arrival Osh in Kyrgyzstan. You may enjoy a city tour or take part in a traditional bread-making class. Then cross into Uzbekistan for a short visit to Andizhan. In the afternoon you have a visit to Margilan, to visit the Yodgorlik Factory and watch the traditional process of silk production. **BLD**

Day 7 Samarkand

The fabled city of Samarkand, known for its mosques and mausoleums, was founded in the 6th century and was one of the most important cities in Central Asia. You'll visit its most significant sites, including Registan Square, a plaza bordered by 3 madrassas dating to the 15th and 17th centuries. **BLD**

Day 8 Shakhrisabz

Shakhrisabz is one of Central Asia's most ancient cities. Founded more than 2,700 years ago, it was a part of the Achaemenid Empire or Persia from the 6th to 4th centuries BC. Today you visit the remains of the majestic 14th century Ak-Saray Palace of Amur Timur (Tamerlane) in Shakhrisabz. **BLD**

Day 9 Dushanbe

Morning visit to the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe, on the Varzob River. You will visit the opulent Kohi Navruz Palace and take some time out to enjoy tea and delicacies. **BLD**

Day 10 Bukhara

Bukhara is Central Asia's holiest city, with a history spanning over 1,000 years and an Old Town that has changed little in two centuries. Your sightseeing includes the infamous Ark citadel and a visit to the Emir's enchantingly named 'Palace of the Moon and Stars'. **BLD**

Day 11 Merv

Arriving in Turkmenistan, you transfer from Mary to the largely unrestored ruins of ancient Merv, once an important stopping place on the Silk Road. Briefly, during the 12th century, it claimed to be the largest city in the world. **BLD**

Day 12 Ashgabat

Turkmenistan's capital city Ashgabat has been called the 'Las Vegas of the Kara Kum'. Its extravagant fountains, golden domes and towering modern buildings appear strangely incongruous in its desert setting. **BLD**

Day 13 Khiva

Today you travel to Khiva in Uzbekistan, a World Heritage Site founded 2,500 years ago. Stepping back in time, you'll discover its impressive mosques, bazaars and minarets within its ancient city walls. **BLD**

Day 14 Tashkent

Afternoon arrival Tashkent, Uzbekistan's lively Soviet-style capital. During your tour you will see the world's oldest Koran and visit the Railway Museum and Museum of Applied Arts. **BLD**

Day 15 Bishkek & Lake Issyk-Kul

Morning sightseeing of Kyrgyzstan's capital city, Bishkek, bordering Central Asia's Tien Shan range. This afternoon, you have a guided tour of the open-air Museum of Petroglyphs at Lake Issyk-Kul, followed by a breathtaking flight demonstration of Eagle Hunting. **BLD**

Day 16 Almaty

Almaty is the largest city in Kazakhstan and is surrounded by the majestic Tien Shan Mountains. During your city tour you will visit the Zenkhov Cathedral, built entirely of wood, and take a cable car ride in the Chimbulak resort for spectacular views of Almaty and the mountains. Farewell Dinner and overnight Intercontinental Hotel (or similar), Almaty. **BLD**

Day 17 Almaty

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport. **B**

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in **USD**. Applicable 2020/2021.

Departures	Silver Class		Gold Class		Imperial Suite	
	Twn	Sgl	Twn	Sgl	Twn	Sgl
2020						
5 April	22695	22695	28395	28395	47295	94595
2021						
2 April	25395	37995	31895	52695	51995	103895

If your time is limited, then why not explore one of the shorter duration options on this tour, starting in Tashkent. Ask us for more details.



Grand Trans-Siberian Express

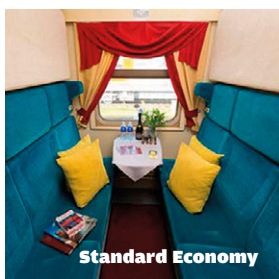
First class tour by private train

This tour may be booked eastbound or westbound, travelling through Russia, Mongolia and China. It offers a combination of hotel and rail accommodation. You spend 6 overnights on your private train in a choice of 4 different categories and 7 overnights in 4 and 5-star hotels, with daily sightseeing and a guaranteed daily shower for travellers of all categories. There is a restaurant on board and a lounge car with resident pianist in the evenings. This itinerary features a flight from Ulaanbaatar to Beijing to avoid the necessity of obtaining a Chinese visa; or you may join a local Mongolian train for the 30-hr journey, at additional cost. Only categories Standard Economy and Standard Plus are available on this rail sector.

On board accommodation

Standard Economy

Standard Economy compartments are 4m² with centrally-controlled air conditioning and two lower and two upper beds (0.65 by 1.85m). Toilets and wash basins are located at both ends of each Standard Economy carriage. Each carriage has 9 compartments. Standard Economy compartments may only be booked for triple or quad use. Hotel accommodation is in two twin rooms.



Standard Economy

Standard Plus

Standard Plus compartments are 4m² with centrally-controlled air conditioning and have two lower and two upper beds (0.65 by 1.85m). The lower beds are used for sleeping. Upper beds can be used for storage or folded away. Toilets and wash basins are located at both ends of the carriage. Each carriage has 9 compartments. Standard Plus compartments may be reserved for twin or single use.



Standard Plus

Deluxe Silver

Deluxe Silver compartments are larger at 5.4m², with individually controlled air-conditioning (when train is moving), private bathroom with 'wet-room' style shower, toilet and wash basin. The upper bed is 0.8 by 1.85m and the lower bed 1.1 by 1.85m. There is a table at the window, armchair and small wardrobe. There are 6 Silver Class compartments per carriage.



Deluxe Silver

Deluxe Gold

Deluxe Gold offers the most comfortable accommodation at 7m², with individually controlled air-conditioning (when train is moving), private bathroom with separate power shower, toilet and wash basin. The upper bed is 0.8m by 1.85m and the lower bed 1.2m by 1.85m. There is a table at the window, armchair and small wardrobe. There are 5 Gold Class compartments per carriage.



Deluxe Gold





Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Naadam Festival

Grand Trans-Siberian Express

First class tour by private train - 14 days/13 nights

Inclusions

- 6 nights on board the Grand Trans-Siberian Express private train
- 7 nights accommodation in 4 & 5-star hotels - Beijing (2), Ulaanbaatar (2), Irkutsk (1), Yekaterinburg (1), Moscow (1)
- All meals, with complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water
- Arrival/departure transfers on days 1 and 14
- Tour Manager
- Comprehensive sightseeing as specified conducted in **English**
- Economy class flight Beijing-Ulaanbaatar (rail option available at additional cost)
- Doctor on board

Westbound itinerary

Day 1 Beijing

Arrive Beijing. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Beijing hotel. **D**

Day 2 Beijing

Morning visit to the Great Wall of China, with an afternoon visit to the Summer Palace. Overnight Beijing hotel. **BLD**

Day 3 Beijing to Ulaanbaatar

Today's sightseeing includes the Imperial City, Tiananmen Square and the Temple of Heaven. Evening flight to Ulaanbaatar. Overnight Ulaanbaatar hotel. **BLD**

Day 4 Ulaanbaatar

Today you drive to Terelj National Park. You'll meet a local reindeer herder and his family and be entertained with a private Naadam festival, which demonstrates the three disciplines of the National Naadam Festival - wrestling, archery and horse-racing. Overnight Ulaanbaatar hotel. **BLD**

Day 5 Ulaanbaatar

This morning's city tour includes the Gandan Monastery and Bogd Khan Palace Museum. This afternoon, board your private train to begin your epic journey. Overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 6 Ulan Ude

Overnight you cross the border from Mongolia into Russia. Immigration

formalities take place on the train. Afternoon arrival Ulan Ude, the capital of the Buryat Republic and a fascinating mix of East and West. Your sightseeing includes a village of Orthodox Old Believers, where you are hosted for lunch. From Ulan Ude your train joins the Trans-Siberian mainline to Moscow. Overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 7 Lake Baikal

This morning, your train runs slowly along the scenic Circumbaikal Railway line between Port Baikal and Sludyanka and includes a photo stop. Then take a short boat trip from Port Baikal to the village of Listvyanka. Enjoy a typical Siberian barbeque on the lake's shores and dinner at a local restaurant. This evening, a

one-hour bus trip takes you to Irkutsk. Overnight Irkutsk hotel. **BLD**

Day 8 Irkutsk

Your sightseeing of Irkutsk showcases the old town with its beautiful wooden houses and culminates in a private concert of classical music in the Volkonsky House Museum. Re-join your train in the evening. Overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 9 Krasnoyarsk

During Soviet times, Krasnoyarsk on the Yenisei River, like Yekaterinburg and Ulan Ude, was closed to foreigners and locals alike. Your city tour covers the major landmarks. Overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 10 Novosibirsk

During this morning's city tour you will see the famous Opera House - the largest in Russia. Afternoon drive into the Taiga - the true Siberian forest - to visit Russia's largest open-air railway museum, which provides an insight into the development of the trains on the Trans-Siberian Railway. Overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 11 Yekaterinburg

The capital of the Urals is well known as the place where the last Tsar Nicholas II and his family were murdered. You will see the Church on the Blood, erected on the site of their execution, then continue into the forest to Ganina Yama - an assembly of small wooden chapels constructed to commemorate the site of their subsequent burial. Overnight Yekaterinburg hotel. **BLD**

Day 12 On board

Today is spent on board, travelling through a scenery of forests, lakes and small settlements. Overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 13 Moscow

Your epic rail journey of almost 8000 km finishes today in Moscow. This afternoon, a city tour showcases Moscow's landmarks, including Red Square and the Kremlin grounds. Overnight Moscow hotel. **BLD**

Day 14 Moscow

Tour services end today after breakfast with a transfer to the airport, or you may choose to extend your stay to St. Petersburg. **B**

Other itineraries available: Ulaanbaatar and reverse, Northern Lights Explorer Winter Miracle. Ask us for details.

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable May-Sep 2020.

Departures	Standard Economy		Standard Plus		Deluxe Silver		Deluxe Gold	
	Quad	Sgl	TwN	Sgl	TwN	Sgl	TwN	Sgl
Westbound: Beijing-Moscow								
22 May, 12 Jun	8018	n/a	11561	16053	18719	28737	22579	33421
3 Jul, 4 Sep	8298	n/a	11842	16333	19000	29018	22860	33702
24 Jul, 14 Aug	8439	n/a	11982	16474	19140	29158	23000	33842
Eastbound: Moscow-Beijing (15 days/14 nights)								
16 May, 6 Jun	8193	n/a	11912	16596	19070	29281	22930	35070
27 Jun, 29 Aug	8474	n/a	12193	16877	19351	29561	23211	35351
18 Jul, 8 Aug	8614	n/a	12333	17018	19491	29702	23351	35491

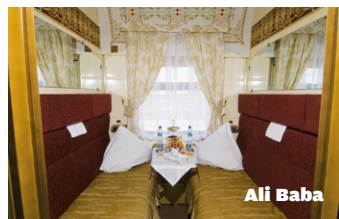


Samarkand

The Legendary Silk Road

First class tour by private train

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime rail journey of 3,200 km as you explore some of the most remote parts of the world. You'll travel through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan along the legendary Silk Road from Almaty to Ashgabat or the reverse direction. This exotic rail journey features a combination of train and hotel accommodation, enabling you to explore magical cities like Samarkand in more depth. The mix of guests on board comprises various nationalities and the on board announcements will reflect this. Your sightseeing excursions will be conducted in English only within an English speaking group. The train was extensively refurbished in 2013 offering a high standard of safety, service and comfort and is air-conditioned while moving.



On board accommodation

Habibi

Habibi compartments accommodate 4 guests (mixed sexes) with two lower and two upper berths, each 0.67 by 1.84 metres. There is a small table under the window. A toilet with wash basin is located at each end of the carriage which has 9 compartments.

Ali Baba

Ali Baba compartments accommodate 2 guests with two lower berths, each 0.67 by 1.84 metres. There is a small table under the window and additional luggage stowage. A toilet with wash basin is located at each end of the carriage which has 9 compartments.

Aladdin

Aladdin compartments accommodate 2 guests with two lower berths, each 0.67 by 1.84 metres. There is a small table under the window and additional luggage stowage. Each car has 8 compartments. There is a shower with toilet and washbasin at each end of the compartment.

Sultan

This category accommodates two guests in an upper (0.8 by 1.74 metres) and lower (1.10 by 1.84 metres) berth. Each compartment has a larger table, armchair and ensuite bathroom with WC, wash basin and integrated 'wet room' style shower. Each carriage has 6 compartments.

Kalif

Kalif, the train's grandest accommodation, accommodates two guests in an upper (0.8 by 1.74 metres) and lower (1.12 by 1.84 metres) berth. Each compartment has a larger table, armchair, safe, ensuite bathroom with WC, wash basin and separate shower cabin. Each carriage has 4 Kalif compartments.



Uzbekistan, folk dancers

The Legendary Silk Road

First class tour by private train - 14 days/13 nights

Inclusions

- 7 nights accommodation on board the Orient Silk Road Express private train
- 1 night Almaty, 2 nights Samarkand, 1 night Bukhara, 2 nights Ashgabat in 3.5 & 4-star hotels
- All meals from breakfast on day 2
- Arrival/departure coach transfers on days 1 and 14
- Tour Manager
- Doctor on board
- Comprehensive sightseeing as specified in English

Day 1 Almaty

Arrive Almaty. Join your coach transfer to your hotel. Overnight Almaty hotel.

Day 2 Almaty

This morning you have a walking tour of Kazakhstan's capital, framed by the foothills of the Tian Shan mountain range. You'll see the Ascension Cathedral - one of the largest wooden buildings in the world. After lunch in a yurt restaurant, board your train to unpack and relax before dinner. **BLD**

Day 3 Turkestan

Your morning is spent travelling through the glorious steppes before arriving in the sacred city of Turkestan. Visit the magnificent Mausoleum of Khoja Ahmed Yasawi - Kazakhstan's greatest architectural monument and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 4 Tashkent

Morning arrival in Uzbekistan's lively capital, Tashkent, with its mix of modern, Soviet and medieval architecture. You will visit caravanserais, fortresses and madrasahs. Evening departure and overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 5 Shakhrisabz

Today you explore Shakhrisabz, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the birthplace of Timur, the 14th century Mongol conqueror. His palace of this once mighty city stands in ruins in the bustling market town. Enjoy a folklore performance in a small village and meet some of the locals before boarding

your train for an Uzbek wine tasting in the dining car. Overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 6 Samarkand

During Timur's reign Samarkand was considered to be the world's most beautiful and prestigious city. Today you will visit magnificent Registan Square, necropolis of Shah-i-Zinda and the excavation site of Afrosiyab. Overnight Samarkand hotel. **BLD**

Day 7 Samarkand

Another day to soak up this UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll watch Uzbek craftsmen skilfully weave silk carpets and see the Ulugbek Observatory, Bibi Khanum Mosque and impressive Gur Emir Mausoleum. Overnight Samarkand hotel. **BLD**

Day 8 Samarkand to Khiva

After breakfast, you have some free time to stroll through the city before your noon departure. Overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 9 Khiva

Once the main slave market of Central Asia, Khiva retains the air of a thriving medieval oriental town. Your walking tour takes you through the winding streets, past mosques, palaces and mausoleums. After lunch at the old Summer Palace of the Emir, you board your train. Overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 10 Bukhara

Bukhara's history dates back to the 9th century and the Old Town has changed

little in two centuries. This city-museum has a thousand monuments, each a legacy to the days of the caravan trade. During today's touring, you will see the impressive Kalyan Minaret and Mosque and the Mir-i-Arab Madrasah. Near the 500-year-old Lyab-i-Hauz, its pool shaded by 700-year-old mulberry trees, you relax in a madrasah courtyard to watch a performance of traditional Uzbek dancing and music. Overnight Bukhara hotel. **BLD**

Day 11 Bukhara

This morning, return to the Mir-i-Arab Madrasah to continue your exploration. From here you set out to visit the Samanid Mausoleum, the burial place of the Persian king Ismail Samani. It is a unique example of 9th century Central Asian architecture, influenced by both Zoroastrian fire temples and Islamic design and is widely regarded as the most beautiful and precious building in Central Asia. You then visit the infamous Ark Fortress and learn

about its bloodthirsty history. Board your train this afternoon. Overnight on board. **BLD**

Day 12 Merv

At daybreak, your private train draws into the ancient oasis of Merv. In the 12th century this was one of the largest cities in the world. Today, you walk among the ruins of this UNESCO World Heritage Site and enjoy lunch in the courtyard of a local family. Overnight Ashgabat hotel. **BLD**

Day 13 Ashgabat

Your day begins at the site of ancient Nisa and continues to the modern city of Ashgabat where you visit the National Museum. Reminisce with your fellow travellers this evening at a farewell dinner. Overnight Ashgabat hotel. **BLD**

Day 14 Ashgabat

Your epic rail journey concludes today with a coach transfer to the airport. **B**



Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable 2020/2021

Departures

Almaty-Ashgabat

2020	2 Apr, 8 Oct
2021	1 Apr, 7 Oct

Ashgabat-Almaty

2020	14 Apr, 20 Oct
2021	13 Apr, 19 Oct

■ Prices from AUD 9789 per person twin share in Ali Baba 2-berth compartment (8 Oct 2020).

NEW

Baku to Batumi: Ask about our exciting new 11-day journey through the South Caucasus from the sunny plains of the Caspian Sea to the subtropical Black Sea. Departs 8 Oct 2020, with an optional extension to Armenia.



Golden Road to Samarkand

Tailor-made tour - 13 days/12 nights

Uzbekistan is the jewel in the crown of Central Asia. Its medieval, turquoise-domed cities, bazaars and caravanserai encapsulate the romance of the Silk Road and the fabled lands of Alexander the Great and Tamerlane. The pace of the itinerary allows you free time to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the local hospitality. The itinerary is flexible and can be tailor-made to your own requirements.

Inclusions

- 12 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Meals - 2 lunches, 12 dinners, 1-litre bottle mineral water per day
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Business class high-speed Afrosiyob train Tashkent-Samarkand
- Transportation by car Samarkand-Bukhara-Khiva
- Flight Urgench-Tashkent
- Sightseeing as specified with your own **English speaking** guides
- Folklore show in Bukhara

Your hotels

- **Tashkent** - Ichan Qala, City Palace or Lotte Tashkent Palace
- **Samarkand** - Grand Samarkand, Orient Star or Malika
- **Bukhara** - Asia, Omar Khayyam or Emir
- **Khiva** - Orient Star, Kheivak or Asia

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Tashkent

You will be met on arrival and transferred to your accommodation. Overnight Tashkent. **D**

Day 2 Tashkent

Today's city tour of Tashkent includes a visit to the famous Plov Centre to witness and taste the art of cooking plov, Uzbekistan's delicious national dish. You will also visit the Chorsu farmers

market and see some of Tashkent's most impressive metro stations. Overnight Tashkent. **BLD**

Day 3 Tashkent to Samarkand

Morning transfer to the railway station to catch your high-speed Afrosiyob train to Samarkand (approx. 2 hrs). You will be met upon arrival to commence your sightseeing of this fabled city. Highlights include the magnificent Registan Square with

its three grand medressas and Gur Emir Mausoleum. Overnight Samarkand. **BD**

Day 4 Samarkand

Continue your exploration with a visit to the Shah-i-Zinda street of tombs, Bibi Khanum Mosque and Ulugbek Observatory. Overnight Samarkand. **BD**

Day 5 Samarkand & Shakhrisabz

Today you have a full day excursion, travelling through the breathtaking foothills of the Zeravshan mountain range to Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Timur (Tamerlane). Overnight Samarkand. **BLD**

Day 6 Samarkand to Bukhara

After breakfast, begin your 300 km drive to Bukhara. On your way you will visit the remains of an ancient caravanserai and the acclaimed ceramic centre of Gijduvan. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

Day 7 Bukhara

Today you begin your sightseeing of Central Asia's holiest city, with a history spanning over 1,000 years and an old town that has changed little in two centuries. You will see the infamous 5th century Ark Fortress, the 46m Kalyan Minaret and nearby Mosque, Lyabi-Hauz, covered bazaars and 9th century Saminids Mausoleum. Tonight's dinner will include a folklore performance. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

Day 8 Bukhara

This morning you visit the White Palace of Kagan, built by the last Emir of Bukhara to host Tsar Nicholas II during his impending visit to Central Asia. Unfortunately the political events of 1917 prevented the Tsar from accepting the hospitality. Continue to the Emir's Summer Palace and then to the peaceful Chor-Bakr necropolis. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

Day 9 Bukhara

Today is yours to explore the streets and covered bazaars at your own pace. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

Day 10 Bukhara to Khiva

After breakfast, begin your 450 km drive through the Kyzylkum Desert to Khiva. Your hotel is located within the mud-baked ancient city walls. Overnight Khiva. **BD**

Day 11 Khiva

Once the main slave market of Central Asia, Khiva retains the air of a medieval oriental town. Your sightseeing this morning will take you through the exotic streets and courtyards, with a visit to the Tash Kauli Palace. Overnight Khiva. **BD**

Day 12 Khiva to Tashkent

Morning flight to Tashkent. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight Tashkent. **BD**

Day 13 Tashkent

After breakfast, tour services end with a transfer to the airport. **B**



Tour price & departures

*Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Apr-Nov 2020.*

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Apr-30 Nov	4312	6691

From Tashkent, why not take a 2-day trip to the Fergana Valley to watch the traditional process of silk production. Or from Khiva, travel to Nukus to visit the Savitsky Art Museum and continue by 4WD to the shores of the Aral Sea to overnight in a yurt camp.



Khiva

Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan Explorer

Tailor-made tour - 17 days/16 nights

This tour explores the fabled wonders of Uzbekistan and the mysterious and largely unexplored attractions of oil and gas-rich Turkmenistan.

Inclusions

- 16 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3, 4 & 5-star hotels and tent or yurt in Darvaza
- Meals - Uzbekistan - 2 lunches, 12 dinners, Turkmenistan - 1 dinner, 1-litre bottle of mineral water daily
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Transportation by A/C vehicle
- High-speed Afrosiyob train Tashkent-Samarkand
- Flight Urgench-Tashkent
- Sightseeing as specified with your own **English speaking** guides
- Folklore show in Bukhara

Your hotels

- **Tashkent** - Ichan Qala, City Palace or Lotte
- **Samarkand** - Grand Samarkand, Orient Star or Malika
- **Bukhara** - Asia, Omar Khayyam or Malika
- **Mary** - Mary
- **Ashgabat** - Grand Turkmen
- **Darvaza** - yurt or tent
- **Khiva** - Orient Star, Kheivak or Asia

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Tashkent

Arrive Tashkent. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Tashkent. **D**

Day 2 Tashkent

Today's city tour of Tashkent includes a visit to the famous Plov Centre to witness and taste the art of cooking plov, Uzbekistan's delicious national dish. You will also visit the Chorsu farmers market and see some of Tashkent's most impressive metro stations. Overnight Tashkent. **BLD**

Day 3 Tashkent to Samarkand

Morning transfer to the railway station to catch your high-speed Afrosiyob train to Samarkand (approx. 2 hrs). You will be met upon arrival to commence your sightseeing of this fabled city. Highlights include the magnificent Registan Square with its three grand medressas and Gur Emir Mausoleum. Overnight Samarkand. **BD**

Day 4 Samarkand

Today you visit the Shah-i-Zinda street of tombs, Bibi Khanum Mosque and Ulugbek Observatory. Overnight Samarkand. **BD**

Day 5 Samarkand & Shakhrisabz

Full day excursion, travelling through the foothills of the Zeravshan mountain range to Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Timur (Tamerlane). Overnight Samarkand. **BLD**

Day 6 Samarkand to Bukhara

After breakfast, begin your 300 km drive to Bukhara. On your way you will visit the an ancient caravanserai and the ceramic centre of Gijduvan. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

Day 7 Bukhara

Today you visit the 5th century Ark Fortress, Kalyan Minaret and nearby mosque, Lyabi-Haz, covered bazaars and 9th century Saminids Mausoleum. Evening folklore performance. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

Day 8 Bukhara

Visit the White Palace of Kagan, built by the last Emir of Bukhara to host Tsar Alexander II. The 1917 Revolution prevented the visit from taking place. Continue to the Emir's Summer Palace and the peaceful Chor-Bakr necropolis. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

Day 9 Bukhara

Free day to explore Bukhara at your own pace. Overnight Bukhara. **BD**

Day 10 Bukhara to Mary

Early morning departure to cross the Uzbekistan/Turkmenistan border. Continue to ancient Merv. Your sightseeing includes the 12th century Ibn Zeid Mausoleum, the 7th century Kyz Kala fortress; mausoleums of Two Ashkhab and Sultan Sanjar; the Sultan Kala and Erk Kala complex and the Ice House - a giant freezer built in the Timurid period. Continue to Mary. Overnight Mary. **B**

Day 11 Mary to Ashgabat

After breakfast, drive to Ashgabat via the medieval city of Abiverd and 13th century ruins of Seit Jamal-ad Din mosque in Anau. Overnight Ashgabat. **B**

Day 12 Ashgabat

Full day sightseeing of Turkmenistan's dazzling capital, boasting more marble buildings than any other city in the world. Highlights include the National Museum and the Ertugrul Mosque, modelled on Istanbul's Grand Mosque. Overnight Ashgabat. **B**

Day 13 Ashgabat to Darvaza

Continue your exploration of Ashgabat this morning, then drive through the Karakum Desert to visit the village of Erbent, before arriving at the Darvaza Gas Craters also known as 'the Gates of Hell', one of the world's most amazing natural phenomena. The craters have been burning for 40 years. Overnight in tents or yurt in Darvaza. **BD**

Day 14 Darvaza to Konya Urgench, Nukus and Khiva

Continue to the UNESCO-listed Konya Urgench to visit the Turabeg Khanum Complex, some mausoleums and minarets, before crossing the border into Uzbekistan at Hojayli/Nukus. Overnight Khiva. **BD**

Day 15 Khiva

Morning sightseeing of Khiva's inner walled city. Khiva was once the main slave market of Central Asia. Overnight Khiva. **BD**

Day 16 Khiva to Tashkent

Transfer to Urgench for your short flight to Tashkent. Overnight Tashkent. **BD**

Day 17 Tashkent

Your services end with your departure transfer to the airport. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Apr-Nov 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Apr-30 Nov	6630	10602





Gergeti Trinity Church

Wonders of Georgia

Privately escorted tour - 9 days/8 nights

Bordered by Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey, Georgia is situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, its culture reflecting the influence of diverse ancient civilisations. Georgia is one of the most beautiful countries on Earth, with spectacular natural beauty and dramatic mountain ranges and with its centuries-old unique tradition of wine making, the country is a paradise on earth for lovers of wine and cheese.

Inclusions

- 8 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Meals - 2 lunches, 3 dinners, bottled water daily
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Transportation by A/C vehicle
- Escorted throughout by **English speaking** guide
- Sightseeing as specified

Your hotels

- **Tbilisi** - Tiflis Palace
- **Tsinandali** - Radisson
- **Stepantsminda/Kazbegi** - Rooms
- **Akhalsikhe** - Lomsia

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Tbilisi

Arrival in Tbilisi, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Tbilisi.

Day 2 Tbilisi

After breakfast, you begin your sightseeing tour of this ancient city from the Old Town, with its winding lanes and leafy courtyards, overhung by wooden balconies. You will see the 13th century Metekhi Church, the Synagogue, Sioni Cathedral (dating from the 6th-7th centuries) and 6th century Anchiskhati Church. Then you'll be driven to the Mother Georgia statue and walk down to the 4th century Narikala Fortress and exotic brick-domed Sulphur Baths. Continue with a visit to the stunning treasury of the Georgian State Museum (closed Mondays). Overnight Tbilisi. **B**

Day 3 Tbilisi to Signaghi, Kondoli & Tsinandali

Today you explore the Kakheti wine region, offering superb views of the Great Caucasus Mountains. In the fortified town of Signaghi you will visit a small ethnographic museum displaying some paintings by Georgia's most beloved artist - Pirosmiani. Enjoy lunch with a local family and try some of their home made wine and visit a local wine cellar for a tasting. Continue to Tsinandali for a tour of a local duke's estate. Dinner and overnight Tsinandali. **BLD**

Day 4 Tsinandali to Mtskheta & Stepantsminda

After breakfast, head north, stopping at Mtskheta, Georgia's ancient capital and religious centre. You will visit the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Jvari and Svetitskhoveli. The 6th century Jvari

monastery is perched on a rocky mountain top overlooking Mtskheta. Svetitskhoveli, the royal cathedral of Georgia, was used for centuries as the coronation and burial place of the Georgian monarchs. It is considered to be one of the holiest places in Georgia. Continue up the Georgian Military Highway and visit the 17th century fortified church complex of Ananuri, overlooking the turquoise waters of the Zhinvali reservoir. Overnight Stepantsminda. **B**

Day 5 Stepantsminda

Today you visit the remote 14th century Gergeti Monastery, dramatically perched on a rocky outcrop 2170m above sea level. You have the option of walking (1.5-3 hrs depending on your pace and fitness level) or travelling by car. Overnight Stepantsminda. **BL**

Day 6 Stepantsminda to Gori, Uplistsikhe & Akhalsikhe

This morning, you drive to the town of Gori, the heart of the Kartli region and birthplace of Josef Stalin. Explore the ancient cave town of Uplistsikhe - the oldest cave town in Georgia, once a flourishing city as one of the major stops along the Silk Road. Continue your journey to Akhalsikhe via the spa-town of Borjomi, famous for its mineral springs. Dinner and overnight Akhalsikhe. **BD**

Day 7 Akhalsikhe & Vardzia

Today you drive to Vardzia, the magnificent cave town of the Golden Age. This awe-inspiring cave complex stretches over half a kilometre and consists of 3,000 caves over 19 tiers. It's up to you how much of the complex you wish to explore. The tiny church hewn from the rock features some beautiful 12th century frescoes. During your trip you will also see the Khertvisi fortress and visit the fortress of Rabat (closed on Mondays). Rabat was occupied and liberated by Turks, Mongols, Arabs and Russians during its chequered history, resulting in a fascinating combination of different architectural styles. Dinner and overnight Akhalsikhe. **BD**

Day 8 Akhalsikhe to Tbilisi

After breakfast, return to Tbilisi. Overnight Tbilisi. **B**

Day 9 Tbilisi

Tour services end after breakfast with your transfer to the airport. **B**



Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Apr-Oct 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1-30 Apr, 1 Jul-31 Aug	2979	3825
If only one person on tour		5229
1 May-30 Jun, 1 Sep-31 Oct	3171	4039
If only one person on tour		5464

■ Supplement applies for Fri & Sat nights in Tsinandali & Kazbegi

Discover more

This is a suggested itinerary and can be tailor made to your own requirements.



Armenia, Zvartnots Temple ruins

Trans-Caucasian Explorer

Privately escorted tour - 13 days/12 nights

The fascinating Caucasus region is a melting pot of diverse cultures, religions and ancient history. It's where Europe meets Asia, with a backdrop of dramatic scenery and genuine hospitality. Experience oil-rich Azerbaijan, with its audacious 21st century architecture, glorious Georgia and its spectacular scenery and ancient Armenia - one of the earliest Christian civilisations.

Inclusions

- 12 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Meals - 1 lunch, 3 dinners, bottled water daily
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Transportation by A/C vehicle
- Escorted throughout by **English speaking** guide
- Sightseeing as specified

Your hotels

- **Baku** - Central Park
 - **Shekhi** - Shekhi Saray
 - **Tsinandali** - Radisson Resort
 - **Stepantsminda/Kazbegi** - Rooms
 - **Tbilisi** - Tiflis Palace
 - **Akhaltzikhe** - Lomsia
 - **Gyumri** - Viktoria Plaza
 - **Yerevan** - Ani Plaza
- Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.*

Day 1 Baku

Arrival Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Baku.

Day 2 Baku

Morning tour of Baku's highlights: Martyr's Alley, the historical inner town of Icheri Shekher and the ancient Palace of Shirvan-shakhs. Walk to the medieval caravanserai and enter the Maiden Tower, the symbol of Baku. Drive to Gobustan to see the UNESCO-listed Petroglyph Reserve and Archaeological Museum. Overnight Baku. **B**

Day 3 Baku to Shemakhi & Shekhi

Drive west through the most scenic areas of Azerbaijan to Shemakhi and visit the 15th century Diri Baba Mausoleum, carved

out of a cliff, the 10th century Yeddi Gumbaz mosque and the tomb of the royal family of Shirvan Kahn. Arrive Sheki and visit Shekhi Khans Palace, with its magnificent frescoes and stained-glass. Overnight Sheki. **B**

Day 4 Shekhi to Sighnaghi, Kondoli & Tsinandali

At the border of Azerbaijan and Georgia (Ladodekhi), meet your Georgian driver and guide. Explore the Kakheti wine region and visit the picturesque 18th century town of Sighnaghi. Your traditional lunch with homemade wine is hosted by a local farmer. Then enjoy a tasting at a wine cellar that still produces wine using the ancient method of fermenting it underground in clay jars or Qvevri. This process is UNESCO-listed. Overnight Tsinandali. **BLD**

Day 5 Tsinandali to Mtskheta & Stepantsminda

Today you visit Georgia's ancient capital and religious centre of Mtskheta. You will see the 6th century Orthodox monastery of Jvari and the royal cathedral of Svetitskhoveli - both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Continue along the Military Highway, stopping at the 17th century Ananuri Fortress, before arriving in Stepantsminda (Kazbegi). Overnight Stepantsminda. **BD**

Day 6 Stepantsminda to Tbilisi

Today you visit the remote 14th century Gergeti Monastery, dramatically perched on a rocky outcrop 2170m above sea level. You have the option of walking (90 min-3 hrs depending on pace and fitness level) or travelling by car. Overnight Tbilisi. **B**

Day 7 Tbilisi

Wander through the Old Town, with its winding lanes overhung by wooden balconies. See the landmark 13th century Metekhi Church, perched on a cliff overlooking the Mtkvari River. Drive to the Narikala Fortress for panoramic views of the town and continue with a visit to the treasury of the Georgian State Museum (closed Mondays). Overnight Tbilisi. **B**

Day 8 Tbilisi to Uplistsikhe, Borjomi & Akhaltzikhe

After breakfast, drive to Gori and the Uplistsikhe Cave Town, the oldest in Georgia. It was one of the main stops along the Silk Road. Visit the spa town of Borjomi, famous for its mineral water. Overnight Akhaltzikhe. **BD**

Day 9 Akhaltzikhe to Vardzia & Gyumri

Depart for Vardzia, the magnificent 12th century cave town of the Golden Age, stretching along the Mtkvari River. En route, visit the 10th century Khertvisi Fortress. Early evening arrival at the Armenian border,

where you meet your guide and driver and continue to Gyumri. Overnight Gyumri. **B**

Day 10 Gyumri to Yerevan

Gyumri was devastated by an earthquake in 1988, but its 19th century architecture has been preserved. Visit the fortress complex of Amberd, known as the 'fortress in the clouds' due to its elevation of 2,300m. Overnight Yerevan. **B**

Day 11 Yerevan, Zvartnots & Echmiadzin

Morning city tour of Yerevan, then visit the ruins of the 7th century UNESCO-listed Zvartnots Temple and Echmiadzin, the centre of the Armenian Church. Built in 301-303, this is the oldest Christian church in Armenia and the main shrine of religious Christian Armenians worldwide. You will also visit the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial Park and Museum to the Genocide victims. Overnight Yerevan. **B**

Day 12 Yerevan & Garni-Geghard

Today you visit Garni Temple. The citadel and pagan temple is the only standing Greco-Roman colonnaded building in Armenia. It is the best-known structure and symbol of pre-Christian Armenia. Higher up the gorge of the Azat River stands the UNESCO-listed medieval Geghard Monastery, partially hewn from the rock. Overnight Yerevan. **B**

Day 13 Yerevan

Tour services end after breakfast, with your transfer to the airport. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures May-Oct 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 May-31 Oct	5464	6471
If only one person on tour		9514





NEW

Tbilisi

Discover Georgia

Small Group Tour - 9 days/8 nights



Inclusions

- 8 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3-star hotels
- Meals - 1 lunch, 3 dinners, bottled water daily
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Transportation by A/C vehicle
- Escorted throughout by **English-speaking** guide
- Sightseeing as specified

Your hotels

- **Tbilisi** - KMM
- **Telavi** - Guesthouse
- **Gudauri** - Gudauri Inn
- **Akhaltzikhe** - Lomsia

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

of the highest glaciers in the Caucasus - Mt. Kazbegi (5047 m above sea level). Overnight Gudauri. **BD**

Day 6 Thu. Gudauri to Gori, Uplistsikhe & Akhaltsikhe

After breakfast, drive to the town of Gori, the heart of the Kartli region and birthplace of Josef Stalin. Visit the Stalin Museum and the ancient cave town of Uplistsikhe - the oldest cave town in Georgia. It was once a flourishing city and one of the major stops along the Silk Road. Continue to the south-western region of Georgia to Akhaltsikhe. Overnight Akhaltsikhe. **B**

Day 7 Fri. Akhaltsikhe & Vardzia

Today you drive to Vardzia, the magnificent cave town of the Golden Age. This awe-inspiring cave complex stretches over half a kilometre and consists of 3000 caves over 19 tiers. It's up to you how much of the complex you wish to explore. The tiny church hewn from the rock features some beautiful 12th century frescoes. During your trip you will also see the Khertvisi fortress and visit the fortress of Rabat. Rabat was occupied and liberated by Turks, Mongols, Arabs and Russians during its chequered history, resulting in a fascinating combination of architectural styles. Overnight Akhaltsikhe. **B**

Day 8 Sat. Akhaltsikhe to Tbilisi

After breakfast, return to Tbilisi. Overnight Tbilisi. **B**

Day 9 Sun. Tbilisi

Tour services end after breakfast with your transfer to the airport. **B**

Day 1 Sat. Tbilisi

Arrival in Tbilisi, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Tbilisi.

Day 2 Sun. Tbilisi

After breakfast, begin your sightseeing tour of this ancient city from the Old Town, with its winding lanes and leafy courtyards, overhung by wooden balconies. See the 13th century Metekhi Church, the Synagogue, Sioni Cathedral (6th-7th centuries) and 6th century Anchiskhati Church. Then you'll be driven to the Mother Georgia statue and walk down to the 4th century Narikala Fortress and exotic brick-domed Sulphur Baths. Overnight Tbilisi. **B**

Day 3 Mon. Tbilisi to Signaghi, Kvareli, Gremi & Telavi

Today you explore the Kakheti wine region, offering superb views of the Great Caucasus Mountains. Visit the picturesque fortified

town of Signaghi, followed by lunch with a local family to taste their delicious food and home-made wine. Continue to Telavi, with a stop to admire the 16th century architectural complex of Gremi, set on a hilltop. In Telavi you have the unique opportunity to taste wine made by the traditional Kvevri method (fermented underground in a clay vessel). This wine-making method is UNESCO World Heritage listed. Dinner and overnight Telavi. **BLD**

Day 4 Tue. Telavi to Gombori Pass, Mtskheta & Gudauri

After breakfast, visit the local farmers market and drive through the dramatic Gombori Pass to Mtskheta, Georgia's ancient capital and centre of religion. You will visit the two UNESCO World Heritage sites of Jvari and Svetitskhoveli. The 6th century Jvari monastery is perched on a rocky mountain top overlooking Mtskheta. Svetitskhoveli, the royal cathedral of

Georgia, was used for centuries as the coronation and burial place of the Georgian monarchs. It is considered to be one of the holiest places in Georgia. Continue up the Georgian Military Highway and visit the 17th century fortified church complex of Ananuri, which overlooks the turquoise water of the Zhinali reservoir. Arrive at the ski resort of Gudauri for dinner and overnight. Overnight Gudauri. **BD**

Day 5 Wed. Gudauri & Stepantsminda

This morning, your drive follows the Tergi River through some impressive scenery to Stepantsminda (Kazbegi) - the major town in the region. You will visit the remote 14th century Gergeti Monastery, dramatically perched on a rocky outcrop 2170 m above sea level. You have the option of walking (1.5-3 hrs depending on your pace and level of fitness) or travelling by car (supplement applies). Weather permitting, you may catch a glance of one



Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Saturday departures Apr-Oct 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
18 Apr, 9 May, 4 Jul, 15 Aug, 17 Oct	1897	2395

■ **Maximum capacity - 20 guests.**



Mir Castle

Discover Belarus

Privately escorted tour - 9 days/8 nights

Belarus is one of those enigmatic destinations still waiting to be discovered. Nestled between Russia, Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic States, a visit to Belarus can easily be combined with one or more of its neighbours. Once you travel outside the capital Minsk, Australian travellers are a rarity. This tailor-made itinerary features the must-sees such as Mir and Nesvizh Castles, Brest Fortress and Khatyn, whilst allowing you free time in Minsk to explore independently. The itinerary is completely flexible and can be tailored to your own interests. A highlight for nature-lovers is the opportunity to explore and stay in the World Heritage-listed Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park. Its primeval forests are home to bear, elk, deer, wolves, lynx and the endangered European bison.

and deer in captivity. You will also visit the park's excellent museum. Overnight Belovezhskaya Pushcha. **BL**

Day 7 Belovezhskaya Pushcha to Jirovichi Monastery & Nesvizh

After breakfast, drive north to visit the Jirovichi Monastery - the largest Orthodox monastery in Belarus. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the UNESCO-listed Nesvizh Castle. Surrounded by a park with ornamental gardens and lake, the spectacular castle is one of the most visited sites in the country. It was founded by the immensely wealthy Radzivil family in the 16th century. Overnight Nesvizh Castle. **BL**

Day 8 Nesvizh to Minsk

Morning sightseeing of Nesvizh Castle. After lunch in the castle, return to Minsk. Afternoon free. Overnight Minsk. **BL**

Day 9 Minsk

Tour services end after breakfast with a transfer to the airport or rail station. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Jan-Dec 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Dec	4333	5223
If only one person on tour		8047

Minsk Stopover

If your time is limited, why not take our 4 day/3 night Minsk Stopover. It includes arrival/departure transfers by car, city tour & Khatyn excursion with private English speaking guide, lunch included. Prices from \$910 per person twin share for 3 nights in a centrally located 3-star hotel.

Inclusions

- 8 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star or best available hotels
- Meals - 7 lunches
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Transportation by A/C car
- Escorted throughout by **English speaking** guide
- Sightseeing - City tours of Minsk, Brest & Fortress; Khatyn Memorial, Dudutki open-air folk museum, Mir Castle, Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park and Museum, Jirovichi Monastery, Nesvizh Castle

Your hotels

- **Minsk** - Minsk (*luxé room*)
 - **Mir Castle** (*luxé room*)
 - **Belovezhskaya Pushcha** hotel complex (*deluxe room*)
 - **Nesvizh Palace** (*superior room*)
- Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.*

Day 1 Minsk

Arrive Minsk. You will be met at the airport by your guide and transferred by car to your hotel. Overnight Minsk. **BL**

Town. Relax over lunch at a local restaurant. Continue to the extremely moving memorial complex at Khatyn to learn about its tragic WWII history. Overnight Minsk. **BL**

Day 2 Minsk & Khatyn

Morning sightseeing of Belarus' capital city. You will visit Independence Square with its collection of magnificent Stalinist buildings, Victory Square and the Island of Tears, a monument to the fallen soldiers of the Soviet campaign in Afghanistan, and the Old

Day 3 Minsk & Dudutki

This morning, you travel 40 km into the countryside to visit the Dudutki open-air national craft museum. Return to Minsk for some free time to explore independently or take an optional tour of the Museum of the Great Patriotic War. Overnight Minsk. **BL**

Day 4 Minsk to Mir Castle

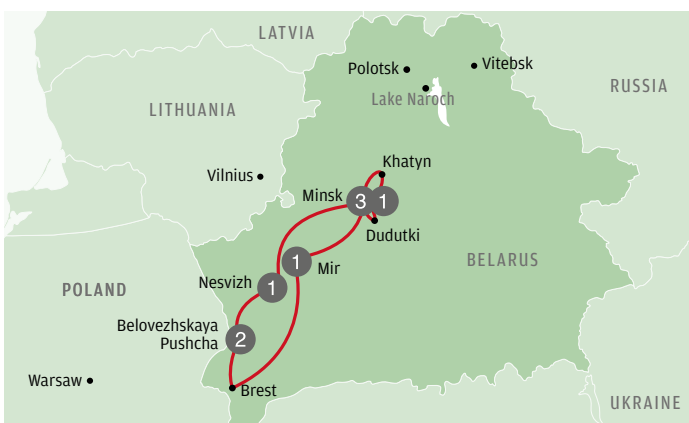
After breakfast, check out of your hotel and drive 90 km south-west to the Museum Town of Mir to visit the 16th century Mir Castle Complex. The imposing UNESCO-listed castle/fortress is dramatically situated overlooking a lake. After lunch at a local restaurant, you will have free time to explore the village and surroundings. Overnight Mir Castle. **BL**

Day 5 Mir to Brest & Belovezhskaya Pushcha

Today you drive to Brest - the western gate of the country. After your city tour, visit the imposing Brest Fortress which played a significant role in WWII and is an important site in Belarusian history. Late afternoon head north to the UNESCO-listed Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, one of the oldest forests in Europe and jointly administered by Poland. Overnight at a hotel complex within the park. **BL**

Day 6 Belovezhskaya Pushcha

Inhale the amazingly pure air of the National Park as you explore its primeval forest. See the 600-year-old oak tree and observe the rare European bison, elk





Belarus, Nesvizh Castle

The Baltics, Belarus & Poland

Tailor-made tour - 19 days/18 nights

Inclusions

- 18 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels or best available
- Meals - 4 lunches
- Arrival/departure transfers throughout by private car
- Intercity coach Tallinn-Riga-Vilnius
- Economy class rail Vilnius-Minsk
- Transportation in Belarus by A/C car, escorted throughout by **English speaking guide**
- 1st class rail Brest-Warsaw
- 1st class rail Warsaw-Krakow
- Sightseeing as specified in **English**
- The Baltics - private walking tours of Vilnius, Riga & Tallinn, Trakai Castle by car
- Belarus - city tours of Minsk & Brest with Brest Fortress, Khatyn, Mir Castle, Nesvizh Castle by car with private guide
- Poland - scheduled city coach & walking tours of Warsaw & Krakow, Wieliczka Salt Mine

Your hotels

- Tallinn - Merchant's House
- Riga - Semarah Metropole
- Vilnius - Artis Centrum
- Minsk - Minsk (*luxé room*)
- Mir - Mir Castle (*luxé room*)
- Brest - Hermitage
- Warsaw - Polonia Palace
- Krakow - Senacki

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Warsaw. **B**

Day 15 Warsaw

During your panoramic city coach tour of Warsaw, the capital and largest city of Poland, you will see the Old Town, Royal Castle and Barbican. Your afternoon is free to explore Warsaw independently. Overnight Warsaw. **B**

Day 16 Warsaw to Krakow

After breakfast, transfer to the rail station for your 3-hour journey to Krakow, one of the oldest cities in Poland dating back to the 7th century. Transfer to your hotel. Afternoon free. Overnight Krakow. **B**

Day 17 Krakow

Krakow is known for its well-preserved medieval centre. During your morning walking tour you will see the Old Town, Royal Castle and Wawel Cathedral. This afternoon, visit the underground world of the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine. Overnight Krakow. **B**

Day 18 Krakow

Free day to explore Krakow independently or you may choose to take an optional visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau or Zakopane and the Tatra Mountains. Overnight Krakow. **B**

Day 19 Krakow

Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer to the airport. Or you may choose to continue your journey to Prague by train. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Daily departures 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Dec	7147	9432
If only one person on tour		12232

* Visa is required when entering and/or departing Belarus by rail.

Day 1 Tallinn

Arrive Tallinn. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Tallinn.

Day 2 Tallinn

Morning walking tour of Tallinn. Afternoon free. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

Day 3 Tallinn to Riga

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the coach station for your comfortable 4.5-hour trip to Riga, Latvia's capital. The largest city of the Baltic states, Riga is dominated by Gothic spires. You will

be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 4 Riga

Morning walking tour introducing you to Riga's highlights. Afternoon free to explore independently. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 5 Riga to Vilnius

Morning transfer to the coach station for your comfortable 4.5-hour trip to Vilnius. Known for the Baroque architecture in its medieval Old Town, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994. Afternoon free. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 6 Vilnius

Morning walking tour of Vilnius followed by a private car excursion to medieval Trakai Castle, dramatically situated on an island in Lake Galve. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 7 Vilnius

Free day to explore this fascinating city independently. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 8 Vilnius to Minsk

Morning transfer to the railway station for your 3-hour train trip to Minsk.* You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Minsk. **B**

Day 9 Minsk & Khatyn

Morning city tour of Minsk, followed by a visit to the memorial complex at Khatyn,

built in memory of the Belorussian village of 26 houses and 156 inhabitants destroyed by the Nazis during WWII. Overnight Minsk. **BL**

Day 10 Minsk

You have a full day free to explore Minsk at your leisure. Overnight Minsk. **B**

Day 11 Minsk to Mir Castle

After breakfast, travel 90 km to visit the dramatic 16th century Mir Castle Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Free time after lunch to explore the village. Overnight Mir Castle. **BL**

Day 12 Mir to Nesvizh & Brest

This morning, drive 30 km to visit the spectacular UNESCO-listed Nesvizh Castle, founded in the 16th century by the immensely wealthy Radzivil family. After lunch in the castle, continue your journey south to Brest. Overnight Brest. **BL**

Day 13 Brest

Morning city tour of the border town of Brest, the western gate of the country, and also visit the imposing Brest Fortress which played a significant role during WWII. Overnight Brest. **BL**

Day 14 Brest to Warsaw

Today, you check out of your hotel and transfer to the railway station to catch your train to Warsaw.* Upon arrival you





Prague

The Baltics, Poland & Prague

Tailor-made tour - 16 days/15 nights

Travel from Tallinn all the way to Prague through 5 countries and 5 totally different cultures on this increasingly popular route.

Inclusions

- 15 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels
- Arrival/departure transfers throughout by private car
- Intercity coach Tallinn-Riga-Vilnius-Warsaw, 1st class rail Warsaw-Krakow-Prague
- Sightseeing as specified **in English**
- The Baltics - walking tours of Tallinn, Riga & Vilnius and Trakai Castle by car
- Scheduled city coach & walking tours of Warsaw & Krakow, Wieliczka Salt Mine
- Prague - private Grand City Tour by car and on foot

Your hotels

- Tallinn - Merchant's House
- Riga - Semarah Metropole
- Vilnius - Artis Centrum
- Warsaw - Polonia Palace
- Krakow - Senacki
- Prague - Leonardo

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Krakow. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Krakow. **B**

Day 11 Krakow

Krakow is known for its well-preserved medieval centre. During your walking tour you will see the Old Town, Royal Castle and Wawel Cathedral. This afternoon, visit the underground world of the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine. Overnight Krakow. **B**

Day 1 Tallinn

Arrive Tallinn where you will be met and transferred to your central 4-star hotel. Overnight Tallinn.

Day 2 Tallinn

Morning walking tour of Tallinn with your own private guide. Situated on the Gulf of Finland, Tallinn is the capital and largest city of Estonia. You will see the city walls, Toompea Castle, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the Old Town. Your afternoon is free to explore independently. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

Day 3 Tallinn to Riga

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the coach station for your comfortable 4.5-hour trip to Riga, Latvia's capital. The largest city of the Baltic states, Riga is dominated by Gothic spires. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 4 Riga

Your morning walking tour of the Old Town includes Riga Castle, Dome Cathedral, St. Peters Church, the Freedom Monument and more. Afternoon free. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 5 Riga to Vilnius

Morning transfer to the coach station for your comfortable 4.5-hour trip to Vilnius. Known for its medieval Old Town's Baroque architecture, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afternoon free. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 6 Vilnius

Morning walking tour of medieval Vilnius includes Vilnius University and Old Town. One of the most extensive and beautiful in Europe. Afternoon free. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 7 Vilnius

Today you travel to Trakai, the medieval capital of Lithuania, for a tour of Trakai Castle, a 14th-century fortress located on an island in Lake Galve. It is the only lake castle in Europe. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 8 Vilnius to Warsaw

Morning transfer to the coach station for your comfortable 8-hour ride by first class intercity coach to Warsaw. Arrive late afternoon and transfer to your central 4-star hotel. Overnight Warsaw. **B**

Day 9 Warsaw

After breakfast, meet your guide for a panoramic coach tour of Warsaw. You will see the Old Town, Royal Castle and Barbican. Afternoon free. Overnight Warsaw. **B**

Day 10 Warsaw to Krakow

After breakfast, transfer to the rail station for your 1st class trip (approx. 3 hrs) to

Day 12 Krakow

Enjoy a free day for independent exploring. We can prebook a day tour for you to either Auschwitz-Birkenau or Zakopane and the Tatra Mountains. Overnight Krakow. **B**

Day 13 Krakow to Prague

Morning transfer to the train station for your 1st class trip to Prague on the Krakow Express. Arrive Prague late afternoon and transfer to your hotel. Overnight Prague. **B**

Day 14 Prague

After breakfast enjoy a City Tour with your own personal guide. See Prague Castle and Cathedral, the Old Town. This afternoon is free to explore independently. Overnight Prague. **B**

Day 15 Prague

Free day or you may prebook one of our tours. The full day tour to Cesky Krumlov is our most popular. Overnight Prague. **B**

Day 16 Prague

Tour services end after breakfast with your transfer to the airport or train station or you may extend your stay. **B**



Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Jan-Dec 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Dec	4906	7102
If only one person on tour		8242



Lithuania, Trakai Castle

Vilnius

Stopover - 3 days/2 nights

Inclusions

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- City tour on foot with your own **English speaking** guide
- Trakai Castle by car with your own **English speaking** guide

Stopover prices

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable 2020.

Hotel/Season	Stopover	
	TwN	Sgl
COMFORT LT NORDIC		
1 Jan-30 Apr, 1 Oct-31 Dec	607	1168
1 May-30 Sep	655	1229
ARTIS CENTRUM		
1 Jan-26 Apr, 1 Nov-30 Dec	697	1314
27 Apr-31 Oct	753	1371
STIKLIAI RELAIS & CHATEAUX		
1 Jan-30 Apr, 1 Oct-30 Dec	841	1555
1 May-30 Sep	867	1607

■ Higher rates may apply during special events or overlapping seasons.

Sightseeing

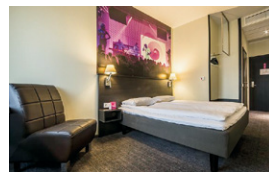
City tour on foot (2 hrs)

Your walking tour of Vilnius, with your own private guide, takes you through the narrow, winding streets of the Old Town, one of the most extensive and beautiful in Europe. You'll see Vilnius University founded in 1579 and the Cathedral, erected on the pagan site of worship where Vilnius was founded in the 13th century.

Trakai Castle (4 hrs)

Trakai, the ancient capital of the Lithuanian Grand Principality is famous for its red-brick 15th century Gothic castle which served as the residence of Lithuanian Dukes. Standing on an island in lake Galve, the castle now houses the Trakai History Museum with with objects and crafts relating a history of Lithuania. Enjoy the small town of Trakai with its old wooden houses.

Vilnius hotels



Comfort LT Nordic ★★★

14 Kauno St
Ultra-modern, music-themed hotel within reasonable walking distance of the Old Town. Restaurant, bar, coffee house & snack bar, 24-hr gym. 200 minimalist rooms with A/C, large LED TV, free Wi-Fi.



Artis Centrum ★★★★★

23 Totoriu St
Traditional 19th century building centrally located in the Old Town. 2 restaurants, spa, pool. 118 spacious rooms in classical style with A/C, safe, Sat-TV, free Wi-Fi, tea/coffee facilities.



Stikliai Relais & Chateaux ★★★★★

7 Gaono St
Stunning boutique hotel housed in an historic building right in the heart of the Old Town. Restaurant, tavern, bar, library, spa, fitness centre & pool. 41 stylish rooms with A/C, safe, free Wi-Fi, Sat-TV.

Riga

Stopover - 3 days/2 nights

Inclusions

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- City tour on foot with your own **English speaking** guide

Stopover prices

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable 2020.

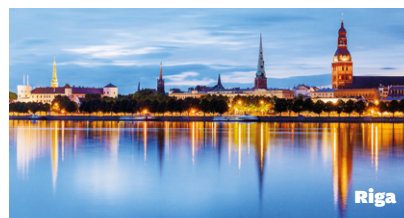
Hotel/Season	Stopover	
	TwN	Sgl
FORUMS		
8 Jan-30 Apr, 1 Oct-30 Dec	288	577
1 May-30 Sep	355	709
SEMARAH METROPOLE		
1 Jan-30 Apr, 1 Oct-30 Dec	340	629
1 May-30 Sep	381	709
GRAND PALACE		
3 Jan-9 May, 22 Sep-29 Dec	508	964
10 May-21 Sep	574	1120

■ Higher rates may apply during special events or overlapping seasons.

Sightseeing

City tour on foot (2 hrs)

Enjoy the beauty of the ancient Hanseatic city while strolling through the cobblestone, picturesque streets of the Old Town. You will see the Dome Cathedral, the Church of St. Peter, the old Guild Houses, the Swedish Gate, the architectural ensemble Three Brothers, St. Jacob's Church, the Parliament House, Old Riga Castle, and view the many wonderfully restored buildings.

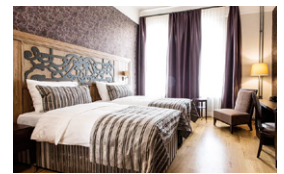


Riga hotels



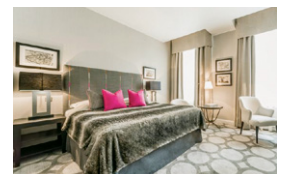
Forums ★★★

45 Valnu St
Traditional 19th century building located in the historic Old Town close to train and coach stations. Breakfast room. 32 comfortable rooms with Sat-TV, free Wi-Fi, minibar. Great value and popular.



Semarah Metropole ★★★★★

36/38 Aspazijas Bvd
An historic building dating from 1871 and located in Riga's Old Town. Restaurant and gym access. 84 elegant rooms with Sat-TV, free Wi-Fi, minibar, safe. Highly regarded in great location. Renovated early 2019.



Grand Palace ★★★★★

12 Pils St
Deluxe traditional hotel in the heart of the Old Town. Restaurant, bar, lounge, summer terrace, gym. 56 elegant rooms and suites with A/C, Sat-TV, free Wi-Fi, minibar, laptop safe, bathrobes and slippers. One of Riga's best.



Tallinn

Stopover - 3 days/2 nights

Inclusions

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- City tour on foot with your own English speaking guide

Stopover prices

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Applicable Jan-Dec 2020.

Hotel/Season	Stopover	
	Twn	Sgl
BERN		
7 Jan-31 Mar	340	638
1 Apr-28 Sep	414	785
29 Sep-29 Dec	362	681
MY CITY HOTEL		
8 Jan-31 Mar	392	723
1 Apr-30 Dec	461	875
MERCHANT'S HOUSE		
13 Jan-31 Mar	418	785
1-30 Apr, 1 Oct-27 Dec	489	898
1 May-30 Sep	551	1031
THREE SISTERS		
5 Jan-30 Apr, 1 Oct-28 Dec	548	988
1 May-30 Sep	626	1149

■ Higher rates may apply during special events/overlapping seasons.

Sightseeing

City tour on foot (2 hrs)

This walking tour of medieval Tallinn is with a private guide. Highlights include the Upper and Lower Towns, Parliament building, 13th century Toompea Castle, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Dome Church and the Old Town Square.
Daily.

Tallinn hotels



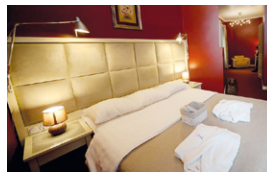
Bern ★★★★★

10 Aia
Small hotel on the edge of the Old Town. 50 compact rooms with A/C, Sat-TV, minibar, free Wi-Fi. Lobby bar/breakfast room. We use the more spacious standard rooms.



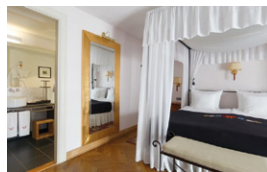
My City Hotel ★★★★★

11/13 Vana Posti
Popular traditional hotel in the Old Town centre. 67 spacious rooms with A/C, safe, Sat-TV, minibar, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant.



Merchant's House ★★★★★

4/6 Dunkri
Boutique hotel in historic building in the heart of Tallinn. 36 rooms with Sat-TV, safe, minibar, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, bar, sauna. No lift. Excellent reviews.



Three Sisters ★★★★★

71 Pikk/ 2 Tulli
Luxury boutique hotel in three 14th century former merchants' buildings. 23 rooms & suites, with Sat-TV, safe, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant. Lift access to Superior rooms.

Ferries/coach services

Ferries

Travelling by ferry is a relaxing way of travelling around the Baltic countries and Scandinavia. The most travelled routes are: Helsinki to Tallinn & Stockholm, Stockholm to Riga and Copenhagen to Oslo.

■ Ferry services can only be booked in conjunction with accommodation (minimum 2 nights).



Coach services

Lux Express is the largest coach operator in the Baltic region and offers express services in 7 countries. The most popular intercity routes are St. Petersburg to Tallinn, Tallinn to Riga, Riga to Vilnius and Vilnius to Warsaw. There are frequent daily services in both directions. Travelling by Lux Express coaches is efficient, comfortable and inexpensive.

■ Coach services can only be booked in conjunction with accommodation (minimum 2 nights).





Latvia, Riga

Capitals of the Baltics

Tailor-made tour - 7 days/6 nights

The Baltic Republics - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - lie side by side along the Baltic Sea. They are emerging as one of Europe's most sought after destinations. A convenient way to join this tour is by ferry from Helsinki - a sea journey of just 2 hours. The option by private car offers more flexibility and includes a visit to the magnificent Rundale Palace. The itinerary can be tailor-made to your own requirements and pace of travel.

Inclusions by car

- 6 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Transportation by car with a driver and **English speaking** guide
- Sightseeing as specified with local **English speaking** guides
- Walking tours of Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius, Pärnu, Rundale Palace and Trakai Castle by car

Your hotels

Tourist

- Tallinn - Bern
- Riga - Forums
- Vilnius - Comfort LT Nordic

Superior

- Tallinn - Merchant's House
- Riga - Semarah Metropole
- Vilnius - Artis Centrum

Deluxe

- Tallinn - Three Sisters
- Riga - Grand Palace
- Vilnius - Stikliai Relais & Chateaux

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Tallinn

Arrive Tallinn, Estonia's ancient seacoast capital, situated 80 km across the Gulf of Finland from Helsinki. Tallinn has a history dating back 1000 years as a seaport and trading centre and is one of Europe's best-preserved medieval towns. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to wander through the cobblestone streets. Overnight Tallinn.

Day 2 Tallinn

This morning you take a walking tour of the Old Town, a virtual museum of medieval architecture. Visit the upper and lower towns and enjoy magnificent views of the Old Town from Toompea Castle, built in the 13th century by the Knights of the Sword as a small fortress within the larger fortress of Toompea. Afternoon free. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

Day 3 Tallinn to Riga

After breakfast, accompanied by your English speaking guide, drive 310 km south to Riga, stopping at the seaside town of Pärnu for a walking tour. Founded in the 13th century, Pärnu became a member of the Hanseatic League, and in the early 19th century it became a health resort. Evening arrival and overnight Riga. **B**

Day 4 Riga

During your morning sightseeing tour of Riga you will see the Old Town, Riga Castle - built in 1330 as a residence for the master of the Livonian Order, and the Dome Cathedral. Afternoon free to explore this cosmopolitan city rich in architectural variety. Riga has been a multicultural city throughout its 800-year history. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 5 Riga to Vilnius

After breakfast, travel south for 330 km with your English speaking guide to Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. Before leaving Latvia, visit the magnificent Rundale Palace designed by Francesco Rastrelli, the architect of St. Petersburg's Winter Palace. Crossing into Lithuania,

you make a stop north of Siauliai to see the Hill of Crosses, decorated with over 100,000 crosses donated by Catholic pilgrims. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 6 Vilnius

Your morning sightseeing of medieval Vilnius includes Vilnius University - the oldest university in Lithuania, founded in 1579, and the Old Town - one of the most extensive and beautiful in Europe. After lunch (not included) continue to Trakai - the medieval capital of Lithuania where you visit Trakai Castle, the only lake castle in Europe, located on Lake Galve. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 7 Vilnius

Tour services end after breakfast with your transfer to the airport or railway station, or you may choose to extend your itinerary to include Poland. **B**



Tour prices & departures

By private car

Prices shown per person in AUD. Daily departures Jan-Dec 2020.

Hotel	Tw	Sgl
TOURIST	2323	4442
SUPERIOR	2708	5092
DELUXE	3166	5886

By intercity coach

Hotel	Tw	Sgl
TOURIST	1577	2841
SUPERIOR	1950	3479
DELUXE	2395	4249

Inclusions (by intercity coach)

- 6 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Return transfers by car in each city
- Intercity coach service Tallinn-Riga-Vilnius
- Walking tour of each city, Trakai Castle by car

Please note: Stops at Pärnu, Rundale Palace & Hill of Crosses not included.



Baltic Impressions

Escorted coach tour - 10 days/9 nights

Classical Baltics

Escorted coach tour - 8 days/7 nights

Inclusions

- 9 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 and 4-star hotels
- Meals - 3 dinners *
- Arrival/departure transfers by car *
- Transportation by A/C coach or minibus
- Sightseeing as specified in **English with bilingual tour escort**
- City tours of Tallinn, Vilnius, Riga; Rundale Palace, Trakai Castle; Curonian Spit excursion *

Your hotels

- Tallinn - Radisson Blu Olympia
- Cesis - Cesis
- Vilnius - Radisson Blu Lietuva
- Klaipeda - National
- Riga - Wellton Riverside Spa

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Fri. Tallinn

Arrive Tallinn. You will be met and transferred to your hotel for a welcome meeting. Overnight Tallinn.

Day 2 Sat. Tallinn to Tartu and Cesis

Morning drive to Lahemaa National Park. Then travel to Tartu then Latvia and the Hanseatic town of Cesis. Overnight Cesis. **B**

Day 3 Sun. Cesis to Sigulda & Vilnius

Morning drive through Gauja National Park to Sigulda. See the ruins of the Episcopal Castle, Castle of the Knights of the Sword and Rundale Palace. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 4 Mon. Vilnius to Trakai & Klaipeda

Morning coach and walking tour of Vilnius. Continue to Trakai to visit Trakai Castle. Late afternoon arrival. Overnight Klaipeda. **B**

Day 5 Tue. Klaipeda & the Curonian Spit

Full day excursion to the Curonian Spit. En route, see the Hill of Witches in Juodkrante and the resort town of Nida. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Klaipeda. **BD**

Day 6 Wed. Klaipeda to Siauliai & Riga

Short morning tour of Klaipeda's Old Town, then drive to Samogitia National Park for a walking tour around Lake Plateliai. Continue to Siauliai to visit the Hill of Crosses. Late afternoon arrival and overnight Riga. **B**

Day 7 Thu. Riga

Morning walking tour of Riga's Old Town, then a free afternoon or optional tour to Jurmala. Dinner is at stylish Forest restaurant. Overnight Riga. **BD**

Day 8 Fri. Riga to Pärnu & Tallinn

Take the coastal highway to the Estonian summer resort of Pärnu for a short tour, then continue through the north Estonian forests to overnight in Tallinn. **B**

Day 9 Sat. Tallinn

Morning walking tour of Tallinn. Afternoon free or take an optional tour to Kadriorg Park. Medieval dinner at Maikrahv Restaurant. Overnight Tallinn. **BD**

Day 10 Sun. Tallinn

Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**

Inclusions

- 7 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Meals - 2 lunches
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Transportation by A/C coach
- Sightseeing as specified in **English with multilingual tour escort**
- City tours of Vilnius, Riga, Pärnu, Tallinn; Rundale Palace, Open Air Museum, Trakai Castle

Your hotels

- ★ ★ ★
- Vilnius - Europa City
- Riga - Rixwell Konventa Seta
- Tallinn - Gotthard Residents
- ★ ★ ★ ★
- Vilnius - Hilton Garden Inn
- Riga - Wellton Riga Hotel & Spa
- Tallinn - Nordic Forum

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Sat. Vilnius

Arrive Vilnius where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Meet your fellow travellers in the Radisson Blu Royal Astorija hotel tonight at 20:00. Overnight Vilnius.

Day 2 Sun. Vilnius

Morning sightseeing tour of Vilnius. In the afternoon, visit 14th century Trakai Castle, the medieval capital of Lithuania, scenically situated on an island in the centre of Lake Galve. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 3 Mon. Vilnius to Riga

Morning departure for Riga, stopping en route to visit the Hill of Crosses and 18th century Rundale Palace, designed by the architect of St. Petersburg's Winter Palace, Francesco Rastrelli. Overnight Riga. **BL**

Day 4 Tue. Riga

After breakfast, tour Riga's Old Town, with its merchant residences, Art Nouveau architecture and the Dome Cathedral. Your afternoon is at leisure to explore Riga independently. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 5 Wed. Riga

Today is free to explore Riga at your own pace. Alternatively, you may take an optional excursion to Sigulda, often called the 'Latvian Switzerland', and visit the 13th century Knight's Castle. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 6 Thu. Riga to Tallinn

Morning departure for Tallinn, stopping at the Ethnological Open Air Museum on the outskirts of Riga. Travel along the Baltic Sea coast and stop at Pärnu for a short tour. Overnight Tallinn. **BL**

Day 7 Fri. Tallinn

This morning, explore the sights of medieval Tallinn. Relax this afternoon or take an optional tour to Kadriorg Park and Palace, commissioned in 1721 by Peter the Great as a summer residence. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

Day 8 Sat. Tallinn

Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Friday departures May-Sep 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
8 May, 22 May, 5 Jun, 12 Jun, 19 Jun, 26 Jun, 3 Jul, 10 Jul, 17 Jul, 24 Jul, 31 Jul, 7 Aug, 14 Aug, 21 Aug, 28 Aug, 4 Sep	2212	2997

■ Maximum capacity - 26 guests.

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Saturday departures May-Sep 2020.

Departures	3-star		4-star	
	Twn	Sgl	Twn	Sgl
16 May, 30 May, 13 Jun, 27 Jun, 11 Jul, 25 Jul, 8 Aug, 22 Aug, 5 Sep, 19 Sep	1432	1866	1685	2444

■ Maximum capacity - 20 guests.



NEW

Poland, Gdansk

Value Added Inclusions
Look for the *

Small Group Tour

Baltic Amber Coast with Kaliningrad

Escorted coach & ferry tour - 13 days/12 nights

This small group tour begins in the Polish city of Gdansk and ventures into the enigmatic Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, founded by the Teutonic Knights in the 13th century. The city was annexed by the Soviet Union at the end of WWII and remained off limits to foreigners until 1991. It sits between Poland and Lithuania, from where you continue your journey through the Baltic States and Helsinki to St. Petersburg.

Inclusions

- 12 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels
- Meals - 4 dinners *
- Arrival/departure transfers by car *
- Transportation by A/C coach or minivan, economy class ferry Tallinn-Helsinki
- Sightseeing as specified with tour escort in **English only**
- City tours of Gdansk, Kaliningrad, Klaipeda, Riga, Tallinn, Helsinki, Vyborg, St. Petersburg, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum *, Peterhof & Grand Palace * Catherine's Palace at Pushkin *

Your hotels

- Gdansk - Mercure
- Kaliningrad - Holiday Inn
- Klaipeda - National
- Riga - Wellton Riverside
- Tallinn - Radisson Blu Olympia
- Helsinki - Glo Art
- St. Petersburg - Sokos Vasilevsky

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Church-in-the-rock. Free afternoon or take an excursion to the island fortress of Suomenlinna. Overnight Helsinki. **B**

Day 10 Tue. Helsinki to St. Petersburg

Travel east, crossing the border into Russia at Vyborg, where you have a short tour. Late afternoon arrival and overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 11 Wed. St. Petersburg

After breakfast, your city tour will introduce you to the highlights of Peter the Great's northern capital, including a visit to Peter & Paul Fortress. This afternoon, travel to the town of Pushkin, also known as Tsars' Village, to visit Catherine's Palace and see the famous Amber Room. This evening offers an optional folklore performance at the 19th century Nikolaevsky Palace. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 12 Thu. St. Petersburg

Morning drive to the Gulf of Finland, to visit the Grand Palace and magnificent gardens of Peterhof Palace. This afternoon, visit the world renowned Hermitage Museum. Farewell your fellow travellers this evening over dinner at Pryanosti & Radosti restaurant. Overnight St. Petersburg. **BD**

Day 13 Fri. St. Petersburg

Tour services end after breakfast with your transfer to the airport or rail station, or you may choose to extend your trip to Moscow. **B**

Day 1 Sun. Gdansk

Arrive Gdansk. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Gdansk.

Day 2 Mon. Gdansk to Kaliningrad

The seaport of Gdansk has an atmosphere unlike any other Polish city. Your morning walking tour of the Old Town includes the Long Market, St. Mary's Church, St. Bridget's Church, the Artus Court and Town Hall. Afternoon departure for Kaliningrad - a Russian enclave sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania along the Baltic coast. Overnight Kaliningrad. **B**

Day 3 Tue. Kaliningrad to Klaipeda

Known as Königsberg during centuries of Prussian rule, Kaliningrad was largely reconstructed after WWII. Traces of its German heritage can be seen in the surviving Brandenburg Gate and riverside Fishing Village, a dining and shopping destination with re-created medieval-style buildings. The original Prussian-style buildings are intermixed with Soviet-era architecture. During your morning city tour you will see Victory Square, Kant's Island with the impressive Church of Christ the Saviour and visit the Central Market and Amber Museum. Depart for Klaipeda in the afternoon, travelling along the Curonian Spit, with a stop at the picturesque fishing town of Nida. Dinner at Restaurant 19th Century and overnight Klaipeda. **BD**

Day 4 Wed. Klaipeda to Riga

After a long history as a German town, Klaipeda became a part of Lithuania in 1923. After your sightseeing tour of the Old Town, drive to the Samogitia National Park for a walking tour around Lake Plateliai. Continue to Riga via Siauliai and the Hill of Crosses. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 5 Thu. Riga

After breakfast, you have a walking tour of Riga's Old Town. This afternoon, you may take an optional excursion to the seaside resort of Jurmala, with its wooden houses

and kilometres of white-sand beaches. Dinner tonight is at the restaurant Forrest. Overnight Riga. **BD**

Day 6 Fri. Riga to Tallinn

Travel along the coastal highway to the seaside resort of Parnu for a short tour, and then continue to Tallinn, arriving early afternoon. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

Day 7 Sat. Tallinn

Your morning tour takes you around the medieval city walls and into the Old Town to see Toompea Castle, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the Dome Church, Old Town Hall and Great Guild Hall. Afternoon free, or you may take an optional excursion to Kadriorg Park and the award-winning art museum KUMU. Enjoy a medieval dinner tonight at Restaurant Maikrahv. Overnight Tallinn. **BD**

Day 8 Sun. Tallinn to Helsinki

This morning is free to relax or take an excursion to Lahemaa National Park to visit Palmse and Sagadi Manor Houses. Afternoon departure by ferry (approx. 2 hrs) for Helsinki. Overnight Helsinki. **B**

Day 9 Mon. Helsinki

After breakfast, your tour introduces you to Helsinki's major landmarks - Senate Square with the Lutheran Cathedral, Finlandia Hall, Sibelius Monument and a visit to the



Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Sunday departures Jul-Aug 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
5 Jul	4037	5389
12 Jul, 19 Jul, 26 Jul, 2 Aug, 9 Aug, 16 Aug, 23 Aug	3860	5212

■ **Maximum capacity - 26 guests.**



Warsaw & Krakow Explorer

Tailor-made tour - 6 days/5 nights

Combine Poland's two most popular cities on this comprehensive, independent tour. You may choose between 3 or 4-star hotels, travelling by 1st class rail between Warsaw and Krakow and with car transfers included throughout. In both centres you'll enjoy a city tour, and in Krakow you can choose from a tour to Auschwitz-Birkenau or the Wieliczka Salt Mine. Other optional sightseeing tours are also available. And on your last night in Krakow, you'll enjoy dinner at a traditional restaurant in the heart of the Old Town.

The itinerary can also be taken in reverse.

Inclusions

- 5 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers throughout by car
- Meals - 1 dinner
- 1st class rail Warsaw - Krakow
- Sightseeing as specified, on scheduled group tours with **English speaking guides**
- Warsaw - Panoramic coach tour
- Krakow - Walking tour, choice of Wieliczka Salt Mine or Auschwitz-Birkenau

For Auschwitz-Birkenau bookings names must be exactly as per passport.

Day 1 Warsaw

Arrive Warsaw, where you will be transferred by car to your hotel. Overnight Warsaw.

Day 2 Warsaw

This morning, you join a panoramic coach tour covering the major landmarks. Highlights include the Old Town and Royal Castle, the Royal Route and the former Jewish Ghetto. Overnight Warsaw. **B**

Day 3 Warsaw to Krakow

After breakfast, transfer to the train station for your 4-hour journey to Krakow. Arrive Krakow mid-afternoon and transfer to your hotel. Overnight Krakow. **B**

Day 4 Krakow

After breakfast, join a walking tour of this medieval city. You'll see the Old Town, Renaissance Cloth Hall and a short walk up Wawel Hill takes you to the Royal Castle and the 14th century cathedral. Overnight Krakow. **B**

Day 5 Krakow

Today choose from either a tour to Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp or the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine. Tonight you dine at a

traditional restaurant in Krakow's Old Town. Overnight Krakow. **BD**

Day 6 Krakow

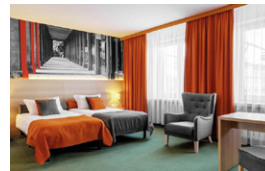
Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**

Tour prices & departures

*Prices shown per person in AUD.
Applicable Jan-Oct 2020.*

Hotel/Season	Twn	Sgl
WARSAW - Hotel MDM		
KRAKOW - Ascot		
3 Jan-29 Feb, 6 Jul-31 Aug	1345	1938
1-31 Mar, 29 Jun-5 Jul	1385	2004
1 Apr-28 Jun, 1 Sep-29 Oct	1425	2075
WARSAW - Polonia Palace		
KRAKOW - Senacki		
2 Jan-31 Mar	1430	2087
1 Apr-30 Jun, 1 Sep-31 Oct	1709	2659
1 Jul-31 Aug	1255	1789

Warsaw hotels



Hotel MDM ★★★

1 Konstytucji Sq.

1950s 5-story building, centrally located, overlooking Constitutional Square, 5 mins walk to nearest metro. 134 comfortable rooms with Sat-TV, minibar, free Wi-Fi. Bar and small bistro, ATM. Good reviews.

Krakow hotels



Ascot ★★★

3 Radziwillowska

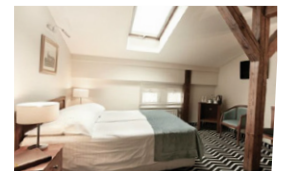
Popular boutique hotel, located in the Old Town, 10 mins walk from the historic Market Square. 49 comfortable rooms with A/C, Sat-TV, safe, free Wi-Fi. Café, bar. Good value.



Polonia Palace ★★★★★

45 Al. Jerozolimskie

Historic hotel located opposite the Palace of Culture, a 10 minute walk to the Old Town. 206 spacious rooms with A/C, Sat-TV, safe, minibar and Wi-Fi. Restaurant, lounge, fitness centre.



Senacki ★★★★★

51 Grozka St.

Boutique hotel located in an 18th century former tenement house in the heart of the Old Town. 20 rooms with A/C, flat-screen TV, safe, minibar, tea/coffee facilities. Restaurant, bar, fitness centre.





Odessa

NEW

Kiev & Odessa

Stopovers

Kiev stopover - 4 days/3 nights

Inclusions

- 3 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Sightseeing by car and on foot with your own **English speaking** guide
- City tour with St. Sophia Cathedral
- Pechersk Lavra (Cave Monastery) & Scythian Gold Collection

Chernobyl tour available at additional cost.

Stopover prices

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel		Twn	Sgl
UKRAINE	<i>from</i>	805	1456
SENATOR MAIDAN	<i>from</i>	1114	2062
FAIRMONT GRAND	<i>from</i>	1404	2425

Sightseeing

Kiev City tour (3 hrs)

Discover Ukraine's beautiful golden-domed capital. See St. Michael's Cathedral, the Opera House, the famous Golden Gate and the green and gold St. Andrew's Church. You will also visit the UNESCO-listed St. Sophia's Cathedral and Monastery complex. Daily except Thu.

Pechersk Lavra Monastery & Scythian Gold Collection (3 hrs)

The Monastery was founded in the 11th century, making Kiev the 'Rome' of Orthodox Christianity, attracting pilgrims from all over Europe. The territory includes golden-domed churches, towers and an underground labyrinth of caves lined by mummified monks. The Museum of Treasures houses rare collections of Scythian Gold. Daily.

Kiev hotels



Ukraine ★★★

4 Instytutska St.

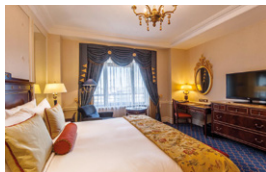
Landmark hotel built in 1961 and located on Independence Square, in the heart of Kiev. 361 rooms with classic décor, A/C, Sat-TV, fridge, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, bar, beauty salon, sauna.



Senator Maidan ★★★★★

8 Taras Shevchenko Lane

Serviced apartment hotel opened in 2013 and housed in a former mansion, centrally located, near Independence Square. 42 spacious, modern rooms and apartments with A/C, Sat-TV, free Wi-Fi. Breakfast room.



Fairmont Grand Hotel ★★★★★

1 Naberezhno - Khreshchatytska St.

Luxury hotel located in the downtown Podil area, 100m from the river port. 258 spacious, stylish rooms with A/C, flat-screen TV, safe, minibar, free Wi-Fi. Award-winning restaurant, café, bar, spa, gym, pool. Excellent reviews.

Odessa stopover - 4 days/3 nights

Inclusions

- 3 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- City tour by car and on foot with your own **English speaking** guide

Stopover prices

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel		Twn	Sgl
ORANGE	<i>from</i>	371	675
LONDONSKAYA	<i>from</i>	658	1198
BRISTOL	<i>from</i>	1065	2020

Sightseeing

Odessa City tour (3 hrs)

Your city tour takes you along the tree-lined boulevards to the famous Potemkin Steps, sweeping down to the Black Sea. Other highlights include the impressive Opera and Ballet Theatre and the Vorontsov Palace.

Daily.



Odessa

Odessa hotels



Orange ★★★

1a Grecheskaya St.

Modern tourist class hotel located about 15 mins walking distance from the city centre. 28 compact rooms with A/C, mini safe, Sat-TV, minibar, tea/coffee facilities, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, bar, no elevator.



Londonskaya ★★★★★

11 Prymorsky boulevard

Historic, classic hotel located on the tree-lined Prymorsky Boulevard overlooking the Black Sea and 600m from the Odessa Opera House. 70 rooms with A/C, Sat-TV, safe, fridge, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, bar, spa, pool, gym, garden.



Bristol ★★★★★

15 Pushkinskaya St.

Elegant, historic hotel within walking distance of the main sights. 113 sound-proofed rooms in classic style with A/C, blackout curtains, safe, LED TV, minibar, free Wi-Fi. Two restaurants (1 kosher), bar, summer terrace, spa, pool, gym.

Contact us for other cities in Ukraine.



Kiev, Cave Monastery

Value Added Inclusions
Look for the *

Classical Ukraine

Escorted coach & rail tour - 7 days/6 nights

Inclusions

- 6 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels
- Meals - 2 dinners *
- Arrival/departure transfers by car *
- Transportation by A/C coach or minibus
- Economy class rail Kiev-Lviv
- Sightseeing as specified **in English with bilingual tour escort**
- City tours of Kiev & Lviv
- Kiev Cave Monastery * St. Sophia's Cathedral & National History Museum *, Castles of Lviv *

Your hotels

- Kiev - Park Inn Kyiv
- Lviv - Dnister

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Wed. Kiev

Arrive Kiev. You will be met and transferred to your hotel for a welcome meeting and drink. Overnight Kiev.

Day 2 Thu. Kiev

Founded in the 9th century, Kiev is one of the oldest cities in Europe and the cradle of Slavic civilisation and Orthodox Christianity. Your morning sightseeing tour includes St. Vladimir's Cathedral, the Golden Gates, a cable car trip to St. Michael's Golden-domed Monastery and St. Andrew's Cathedral.

This afternoon, you visit the UNESCO-listed Cave Monastery (Pecherskaya Lavra). This architectural ensemble of monastic buildings was founded in 1051 and is still a working monastery. This evening, enjoy a relaxing dinner with folklore music at the Opanas restaurant. Overnight Kiev. **BD**

Day 3 Fri. Kiev

Morning free to explore, or take an optional tour to the Pirogovo Ethnographic Open-air Museum. This afternoon, visit the 11th century UNESCO-listed St. Sophia's

Cathedral, one of Kiev's best known landmarks. It was designed to rival Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. Continue with a visit to the National History Museum with over 800,000 unique exhibits related to the history and culture of Ukraine. Overnight Kiev. **B**

Day 4 Sat. Kiev to Lviv

Early this morning, you may take an optional visit to the Chernobyl Museum, dedicated to the 1986 Chernobyl Nuclear disaster. This afternoon you will be transferred to the railway station to board your modern, high-speed train to Lviv. Overnight Lviv. **B**

Day 5 Sun. Lviv

UNESCO-listed Lviv is the centre of West Ukraine. Traces of its Polish and Austro-Hungarian heritage are evident in its architecture, which blends Central and Eastern European styles with those of Italy and Germany. Your morning tour

takes you to the Old Town, a complex of buildings from the 14th-16th centuries. This afternoon's optional Beer Tour demonstrates how the local beer is crafted. Overnight Lviv. **B**

Day 6 Mon. Lviv

After breakfast, you have a full day excursion exploring the castles around Lviv. Olesko Castle dates back to the 13th century and was the residence of the Polish kings. It features a magnificent collection of antique paintings and furniture. Zolochiv Palace, the jewel of defensive architecture, was built in the 17th century and served as a fortress and royal residence. This evening, you farewell Ukraine with a Carpathian dinner at Restaurant Trout, Bread and Wine. Overnight Lviv. **BD**

Day 7 Tue. Lviv

Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Wednesday departures Jul-Aug 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jul, 15 Jul, 22 Jul, 29 Jul, 5 Aug, 12 Aug	1374	1959



Olesko Castle



Ukraine, Lviv

Value Added Inclusions
Look for the *

Scenic Ukraine & Poland

Escorted coach & rail tour - 11 days/10 nights

Inclusions

- 10 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels
- Meals - 3 dinners *
- Arrival/departure transfers by car *
- Transportation by A/C coach or minibus
- Economy class rail Kiev-Lviv and Lviv-Przemysl-Krakow
- Sightseeing as specified in **English with bilingual tour escort**
- City tours of Kiev, Lviv, Krakow, Warsaw
- Jasna Gora Monastery in Czestochowa, Kiev Cave Monastery *, St. Sophia's Cathedral & National History Museum *, Castles of Lviv *, Wieliczka Salt Mine *

Your hotels

- **Kiev** - Park Inn Kyiv
- **Lviv** - Dnister
- **Krakow** - Novotel Centrum
- **Warsaw** - Mercure Centrum

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Wed. Kiev

Arrive Kiev. You will be met and transferred to your hotel for a welcome meeting and drink. Overnight Kiev.

Day 2 Thu. Kiev

Founded in the 9th century, Kiev is one of the oldest cities in Europe and the cradle of Slavic civilisation and Orthodox Christianity. Your morning sightseeing tour include St. Vladimir's Cathedral, the Golden Gate, a cable car trip to St. Michael's Monastery and St. Andrew's Cathedral. This afternoon you visit the world famous Cave Monastery (Pecherskaya Lavra). Enjoy a relaxing dinner with folklore music at Opanas restaurant. Overnight Kiev. **BD**

Day 3 Fri. Kiev

Your morning is free to explore, or take an optional tour to the Pirogovo Ethnographic Open-air Museum. This afternoon, visit the 11th century UNESCO-listed St. Sophia's Cathedral and the National History Museum. Overnight Kiev. **B**

Day 4 Sat. Kiev to Lviv

Early this morning you may take an optional visit to the Chernobyl Museum, dedicated to the 1986 Chernobyl Nuclear

disaster. This afternoon you will be transferred to the railway station to board your modern, high-speed train to Lviv. Overnight Lviv. **B**

Day 5 Sun. Lviv

UNESCO-listed Lviv is the centre of West-Ukraine and its Central European charm reflects its history as part of the Habsburg Empire. Your morning tour takes you to the Old Town, a complex of buildings dating from the 14th-16th centuries. This afternoon's optional Lviv Beer Tour demonstrates how the beer is crafted and provides tasting opportunities. Overnight Lviv. **B**

Day 6 Mon. Lviv

After breakfast, you have a full day excursion exploring the castles around Lviv. Olesko Castle dates back to the 13th century and was the residence of the Polish kings. It features a magnificent collection of antique paintings and furniture. Zolochiv Palace, the jewel of defensive architecture, was built in the 17th century and served as a fortress and royal residence. This evening, farewell Ukraine with a Carpathian dinner at Restaurant Trout, Bread & Wine. Overnight Lviv. **BD**

Day 7 Tue. Lviv to Krakow

This morning, you will be transferred to the rail station to board your modern intercity train to Przemysl, where you connect with your Krakow-bound train. The scenic trip takes you through the mountainous and forested Polish Sub-Carpathian province, arriving Krakow early afternoon. Overnight Krakow. **B**

Day 8 Wed. Krakow

Your morning sightseeing of Krakow includes the Old Town and Wawel Castle and Cathedral. This afternoon, travel to the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine, 'the Underground Salt Cathedral of Poland', with its lakes, grottos and chapels carved from salt. Opened in the 13th century, the mine produced table salt continuously until 2007. Overnight Krakow. **B**

Day 9 Thu. Krakow to Warsaw

After breakfast, depart for Czestochowa to visit the national shrine of the Jasna Gora

Monastery, housing the Black Madonna. The monastery has been a pilgrimage destination for hundreds of years. Continue on through the plains, arriving Warsaw early afternoon. Overnight Warsaw. **B**

Day 10 Fri. Warsaw

This morning's city tour includes the reconstructed Old Town, Royal Castle and Cathedral and Barbican. Afternoon optional excursion to Royal Lazienki Park and Palace. Lazienki Park, the favoured residence of Polish royalty, was constructed in the 18th century. The Palace on the Water was constructed on an artificial island and is one of Warsaw's iconic symbols. Tonight's dinner, to farewell Poland and your fellow travellers, is at the Dawne Smaki restaurant. Overnight Warsaw. **BD**

Day 11 Sat. Warsaw

Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Wednesday departures Jul-Aug 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jul, 15 Jul, 22 Jul, 29 Jul, 5 Aug, 12 Aug	2548	3599

■ For map see page 65.



Poland, Krakow



Polish & Baltic Jewels

Escorted coach tour - 13 days/12 nights

Inclusions

- 12 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels
- Meals - 1 dinner *
- Arrival/departure transfers by car *
- Transportation by A/C coach or minivan
- Sightseeing as specified in **English with bilingual tour escort**
- City tours of Krakow, Warsaw, Kaunas, Vilnius, Riga, Tallinn
- Wieliczka Salt Mine *, Black Madonna, Masurian Lakeland, Trakai Castle *, Rundale Palace, Gauja National Park & Sigulda *

Your hotels

- **Krakow** - Novotel Centrum
- **Warsaw** - Mercure Centrum
- **Olsztyn** - Przystan
- **Vilnius** - Radisson Blu Lietuva
- **Riga** - Wellton Riverside
- **Tallinn** - Radisson Blu Olympia

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.



Day 1 Tue. Krakow

Arrive Krakow. You will be met and transferred to your hotel for a welcome meeting and drink. Overnight Krakow.

Day 2 Wed. Krakow

Your morning sightseeing of Krakow includes the Old Town, Wawel Castle and Wawel Cathedral. This afternoon, travel to the famous Wieliczka Salt Mine, with its lakes, grottoes and chapels carved from salt by Polish miners over 700 years. Tonight an optional dinner at a local Polish restaurant. Overnight Krakow. **B**

Day 3 Thu. Krakow to Warsaw

Morning departure for Czestochowa to visit the national shrine of the Jasna Gora Monastery and Black Madonna. Continue on through the plains, arriving Warsaw early afternoon. Overnight Warsaw. **B**

Day 4 Fri. Warsaw

Morning sightseeing tour to include the Old Town, Royal Castle, Cathedral and Barbican. Optional afternoon tour to Royal Lazienki Park and Palace. Tonight an optional dinner at a local Polish restaurant. Overnight Warsaw. **B**

Day 5 Sat. Warsaw to Olsztyn

Travel through the Masurian Lakeland stopping at Gizycko, the Baroque church in Swieta Lipka and picturesque Mragowo. Continue to Olsztyn for overnight. **B**

Day 6 Sun. Olsztyn to Vilnius

Continue along the eastern fringe of the Lakeland into Lithuania. Stop in Kaunas, the former capital of Lithuania, before arriving in Vilnius for overnight. **B**

Day 7 Mon. Vilnius

This morning you have a panoramic tour and walking tour of the Old Town with Vilnius Cathedral, Peter and Paul's Church, the Old University and Gates of Dawn. Afternoon excursion to Trakai, the medieval capital of Lithuania, and historic Trakai Castle on the island in Lake Galve. This evening take in an optional folklore show and dinner. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

Day 8 Tue. Vilnius to Riga

First a stop at the famous Hill of Crosses before reaching the magnificent Baroque Rundale Palace for a guided tour. Travel on to reach Riga late afternoon. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 9 Wed. Riga

After breakfast, tour Riga's Old Town. This afternoon, you may take an optional excursion to the seaside resort of Jurmala with kilometres of white-sand beaches. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 10 Thu. Riga

This morning you visit Gauja National Park with its stunning scenery and the town of Sigulda, considered one of Latvia's most beautiful cities, to see the Castle of Knights of the Sword. Optional afternoon tour to the Riga Motor Museum, featuring a collection of Soviet vintage cars. Tonight's optional dinner is at the restaurant Forest. Overnight Riga. **B**

Day 11 Fri. Riga to Tallinn

Travel along the coastal highway to the seaside resort of Pärnu for a short tour, then on to Tallinn to arrive early afternoon. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

Day 12 Sat. Tallinn

Your morning sightseeing tour takes in the medieval walls, Toompea Castle, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the Old Town Hall and Great Guild Hall. Take an optional afternoon excursion to Kadriorg Park and KUMU. Tonight enjoy a farewell medieval dinner at Restaurant Maikrahv. Overnight Tallinn. **BD**

Day 13 Sun. Tallinn

Tour services end after breakfast with your departure transfer. **B**

Tour price and departures

*Prices shown per person in AUD.
Tuesday departures Jun-Aug 2020.*

Departures	Twn	Sgl
2 Jun, 16 Jun, 30 Jun, 7 Jul, 14 Jul, 21 Jul, 28 Jul, 4 Aug, 11 Aug, 18 Aug	2965	4006



Malbork Castle

Poland

Escorted coach tours

The Magic of Poland - 7 days/6 nights

Inclusions

- 6 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Meals - 3 lunches, 3 dinners
- Sightseeing - City tours of Warsaw, Zakopane & Krakow, Chopin piano recital, Black Madonna, cable car ride & rafting trip, Auschwitz Martyrdom Museum, Wieliczka Salt Mine
- Tour escort throughout
- English only
- Transportation by A/C coach

Your hotels

- Warsaw - Novotel Centrum
- Zakopane - Mercure Kasprowy
- Krakow - Novotel City West

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Sat. Warsaw

Arrive Warsaw. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Meet your fellow travellers tonight for a short walk in the Old Town and dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Warsaw. **D**

Day 2 Sun. Warsaw

Morning sightseeing tour of Warsaw and its old town, which was totally reconstructed after WWII. Included is a visit to the royal palace. After lunch at a local restaurant, see the former Warsaw Ghetto and visit the Wedel Chocolate Factory. Evening Chopin piano recital. Overnight Warsaw. **BL**

Day 3 Mon. Warsaw To Zakopane

Morning departure to Zakopane via Czestochowa, where you visit the country's national shrine - the Jasna Gora Monastery. Its famous blackened painting of St. Mary is known as the Black Madonna. After lunch,

continue to picturesque Zakopane, nestled in the foothills of the Tatra Mountains. Overnight Zakopane. **BL**

Day 4 Tue. Zakopane To Krakow

After breakfast, you have a sightseeing tour of Zakopane with its unique wooden architecture. Enjoy the breathtaking views of the Tatras from the summit of Gubalowka mountain, followed by a boat trip through the Dunajec River Gorge (both subject to weather conditions). Tonight's dinner is at your hotel. Overnight Krakow. **BD**

Day 5 Wed. Krakow

Krakow was the capital of Poland and the Seat of Kings until 1596. The city remained relatively unscathed from WWII. Your morning sightseeing includes Wawel Castle and the Old Town, with its medieval town square, one of the largest in Europe. After lunch, drive to Auschwitz to visit the Martyrdom Museum of the former Nazi concentration camp. Overnight Krakow. **BL**

Day 6 Thu. Krakow

Morning free. In the afternoon, visit the Wieliczka Salt Mine, with lakes, underground chambers, grottoes and chapels carved from salt by generations of Polish miners over 700 years. Enjoy dinner with a folklore performance in Wieliczka. Overnight Krakow. **BD**

Day 7 Fri. Krakow

Your tour services end after the breakfast with your transfer to the airport. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Saturday departures May-Oct 2020.

Departures	Tour	Twn	Sgl
9 May, 30 May, 13 June, 4 Jul, 18 Jul, 8 Aug, 22 Aug, 5 Sep, 19 Sep, 3 Oct	The Magic of Poland	1825	2355
	Treasures of Poland	2919	3768

■ Refer to map page 63.

Treasures of Poland - 11 days/10 nights

Inclusions

- 10 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Meals - 7 lunches, 3 dinners
- Sightseeing - City tours of Warsaw, Zakopane, Krakow, Torun & Gdansk, Chopin piano recital, Black Madonna, cable car ride & rafting trip, Auschwitz Martyrdom Museum, Wieliczka Salt Mine, Malbork Teutonic Knights Castle, Sopot, organ concert
- Tour escort throughout
- English only
- Transportation by A/C coach

Your additional hotels

- Torun - Mercure Centrum
- Gdansk - Mercure Old Town

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

the Medieval town of Torun, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where you have some free time. Overnight Torun. **BL**

Day 8 Sat. Torun to Gdansk

Morning sightseeing of Torun the birthplace of Copernicus. You'll see the 13th century Town Hall, superb churches and historic streets, as well as a visit to the Copernicus Museum. After lunch in a local restaurant drive to Gdansk for a brief walk through the Old Town. Overnight Gdansk. **BL**

Day 9 Sun. Gdansk & Malbork

Your tour of Gdansk tour starts from the Upland Gate, passes the Prison Tower and Torture House and goes on to the Golden Gate and Long Market with its Grand Mansions. See the Artus Court and St. Mary's Basilica before continuing to Malbork for lunch and a visit to the Teutonic Knights Castle. Overnight Gdansk. **BL**

Day 10 Mon. Gdansk to Warsaw

Drive to Gdynia, the youngest of the tri-city complex. In the fashionable seaside resort of Sopot you will see Europe's oldest and longest wooden pier. Enjoy a short pipe organ concert in Oliwa Cathedral and return to Warsaw after lunch. Overnight Warsaw. **BL**

Day 11 Tue. Warsaw

Your tour services end after the breakfast with your transfer to the airport. **B**



Tallinn

NEW

Helsinki, St. Petersburg & Tallinn

Tailor-made tour - 9 days/8 nights

Discover the history and different cultures of these three northern European capitals. Using Finland's lively capital Helsinki as a base, this tour showcases the very best of the region. The suggested itinerary is completely flexible and you may continue to explore the Baltics instead of returning to Helsinki.

Inclusions

- 8 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car where specified
- Economy class Allegro train Helsinki-St. Petersburg
- Lux Express intercity coach St. Petersburg-Tallinn
- Comfort class ferry Tallinn-Helsinki
- Sightseeing as specified by car or on foot with your own **English speaking guides**
- Helsinki - Panoramic audio tour
- St. Petersburg - City tour with Church on Spilt Blood, Peter & Paul Fortress, Hermitage Museum, Peterhof Palace & Gardens
- Tallinn - City walking tour

Business class cars utilised in St. Petersburg for 5-star package.

Your hotels

- ★★★★
 - Helsinki - Lilla Roberts
 - St. Petersburg - Petro Palace
 - Tallinn - Merchant's House
- ★★★★★
 - Helsinki - Haven
 - St. Petersburg - Belmont Grand Hotel Europe
 - Tallinn - Three Sisters

Day 7 St. Petersburg to Tallinn

You will be transferred to the railway station this morning, to board your early morning Lux Express intercity coach to Estonia's capital city of Tallinn (approx. 7 hrs). Upon arrival Tallinn, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

Day 8 Tallinn

After breakfast, begin your walking tour of medieval Tallinn, with your own guide. You will see the Upper and Lower Towns, the Parliament Building, 13th century Toompea Castle, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the Old Town Square. The afternoon is free. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

Day 9 Tallinn to Helsinki

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the ferry terminal to catch your ferry to Helsinki, where tour services end. Or you may extend your stay in the Baltics. **B**

Day 1 Helsinki

Arrive Helsinki and make your own way to your hotel. Overnight Helsinki.

Day 2 Helsinki

This morning, make your way to the starting point of your audio city tour. You will see the major landmarks of this lively Finnish capital, with free time to explore on your own. Overnight Helsinki. **B**

Day 3 Helsinki to St. Petersburg

After breakfast, make your way to the railway station to catch your high-speed Allegro train to St. Petersburg - a journey of only 3.5 hrs. Upon arrival St. Petersburg, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 4 St. Petersburg

Morning city tour of this former imperial capital, including a visit to Peter & Paul Fortress, the site chosen by Peter the Great as the foundation of St. Petersburg. You will also visit the Church of the Saviour on Spilt Blood, one of the city's most iconic landmarks. It was erected on the site where Tsar Alexander II was assassinated in 1881. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 5 St. Petersburg

This morning, you visit the State Hermitage Museum, founded in 1764. Peter the Great was the instigator of this art collection, but it was Catherine the Great's grand passion for art that transformed the Hermitage into one of

the world's greatest museums. By the end of her reign, Catherine's collection was larger than anything owned by any other European monarch. You may stay on at the Museum at the end of your guided tour. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Day 6 St. Petersburg

Today you travel out of the city to the Gulf of Finland, to visit Peterhof Palace and Gardens. Peterhof, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a series of palaces and gardens that was commissioned as a summer residence by Peter the Great to rival Versailles. In summer months its main attractions are the spectacular cascading fountains and golden statues. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel		Tw'n	Sgl
★★★★	from	2381	3930
★★★★★	from	2990	4881

■ **Hotel descriptions - see pages 70, 11 & 59.**



St. Petersburg, Hermitage Museum



Helsinki

Helsinki

Stopover - 3 days/2 nights

Inclusions

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast
- City tour by coach with audio headset in English



Helsinki, Suomenlinna Maritime Fortress

Stopover prices

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

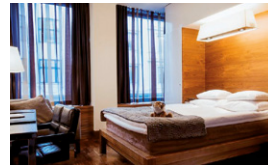
Hotel	Stopover		Hotel	Stopover	
	Twn	Sgl		Twn	Sgl
ORIGINAL SOKOS HELSINKI			HAVEN		
from	390	648	from	444	746
GLO HOTEL KLUUVI			ORIGINAL SOKOS VAAKUNA		
from	378	623	from	476	820
ORIGINAL SOKOS PRESIDENTTI			ST. GEORGE		
from	415	697	from	488	844
LILLA ROBERTS			KAMP		
from	427	712	from	523	913

Helsinki hotels



Original Sokos Helsinki ★★★★★

Kluuvikatu 8
Long-established, popular tourist hotel right in Helsinki's heart, close to Esplanadi, Market Square and a few minutes' walk from the Aleksanterinkatu shopping area and Central Railway Station. Rooms feature practical Scandinavian décor with A/C, flat-screen TV, safe, minibar, iron/board. French bistro & Memphis bar/restaurant, sauna.



GLO Hotel Kluuvi ★★★★★

Kluuvikatu 4
Modern Lifestyle hotel adjacent to the high-end Galleria Esplanad shopping precinct in the centre of the city, just a 7-minute walk from the main shopping street of Aleksanterinkatu. 184 modern rooms featuring wooden floors, A/C, free Wi-Fi, flat screen TV, minibar, tea/coffee facilities, safe, iron/board. Restaurant, cocktail bar, gym, spa access.



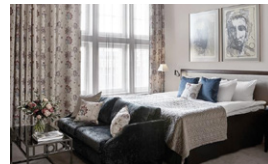
Original Sokos Presidentti ★★★★★

Eteläinen Rautatiekatu 4
Recently revamped, eco-friendly business & leisure hotel. Located next to the Kamppi Shopping Centre, near the Parliament building, 500m from Central Railway Station. Its Finnish décor changes for each floor. Rooms with individually controlled A/C, minibar, tea/coffee facilities. Bistro, bar, pool, sauna. Excellent reviews.



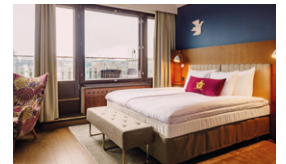
Lilla Roberts ★★★★★

Pieni Roobertinkatu 1-3
Built in 1908, this Art Deco-themed, boutique hotel oozes charm & style and is located in Helsinki's Design District. Stylish and functional rooms feature wooden floors, A/C, flat-screen TV, safe, minibar, iron/board, tea/coffee facilities, bathrobes, free Wi-Fi. Bistro restaurant, spacious lobby bar/lounge, fitness centre. Very popular.



Haven ★★★★★

Unioninkatu 17
Elegant boutique hotel overlooking South Harbour and the Market Square, close to the Esplanadi. 137 rooms, all refurbished in 2017 with A/C, flat-screen TV, safe, minibar, iron/board, tea/coffee facilities, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, bar, gym. The Sundman building where breakfast is served is the second oldest remaining stone building in Helsinki.



Original Sokos Vaakuna ★★★★★

Asema-Aukio 2
This landmark, functionalist building was completed in 1952 for the Olympics and has been recently renovated. It is centrally located, close to the railway and bus stations. 270 rooms featuring 1950s design with parquet floors, A/C, tea/coffee facilities, minibar, flat screen TV, safe, iron/board, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, bar, sauna, gym.

Sightseeing

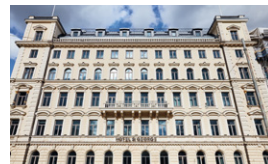
Helsinki Panoramic Audio-coach tour (1.45 hrs)

This popular sightseeing tour covers the most important sights and introduces you to Helsinki's past and present. You will see the historical centre, Parliament buildings, Finlandia Hall and the Opera House. Stop at Temppeliaukio Church (Rock Church) or the Sibelius Monument, if church is closed. Your tour begins and ends at Esplanade Park and is by double-decker bus with headphones and free Wi-Fi. Daily except 24-26 Dec.

Tallinn (11 hrs)

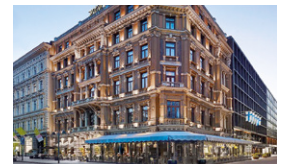
Depart Helsinki harbour 07:30 by high speed ferry (comfort class) and arrive Tallinn 09:30. Meet your guide at the ferry terminal to begin your 2-hour walking tour of Tallinn's Upper and Lower Old Towns. The rest of the day is free to explore Tallinn independently, before making your own way back to the ferry terminal for your 2-hour return trip to Helsinki departing at 16:30.

\$329 per person. Daily.



St. George ★★★★★

Yrjonkatu 13
Modern Design hotel, housed behind an historical façade. Located in a quiet street, next to the old church park, not far from the main street, Mannerheimintie. 148 individually decorated elegant rooms and 5 suites with all amenities. Contemporary restaurant, Wintergarden bar, bakery and coffee shop, spa, pool, gym.



Kamp ★★★★★

Pohjoisesplanadi 29
Located in a beautiful 19th-century building opposite Esplanade Park in the heart of the city, the Kamp offers timeless elegance and European glamour. Spacious rooms combine historical elegance with modern facilities - A/C, marble bathrooms, Simmons beds & seating areas, LCD TV, free Wi-Fi. Two restaurants, spa, gym.



Rovaniemi, husky safari

NEW

Winter in Finland

Tailor-made tour - 9 days/8 nights

Make the most of Finland's invigorating winter climate on this suggested itinerary. You'll visit the beautiful Nordic capital of Helsinki, sample local delicacies in Turku, Finland's food capital, and experience the wonders of Finnish Lapland. Highlights include a husky safari and a night in an amazing Arctic Glass Igloo, deep in the forest, surrounded by pristine Lappish wilderness. You may even catch a glimpse of the Aurora Borealis.

Inclusions

- 6 nights accommodation with breakfast in superior tourist class hotels
- 1 night accommodation with breakfast in Glass igloo at Arctic Snowhotel
- 1 night in 2-berth sleeper with en-suite toilet & shower on board Santa Claus Express
- Meals - 3 dinners
- Economy class rail Helsinki-Turku
- Pre-booked taxi transfers where specified
- Sightseeing as specified with local **English speaking** guides

Your hotels

- **Helsinki** - Original Sokos Vaakuna
- **Naantali** - Naantali Spa & Hotel (*comfort room*)
- **Rovaniemi** - Santa's Hotel Santa Claus
- **Sinettä** - Arctic Snowhotel

Day 1 Helsinki

Arrival Helsinki and make your own way to your hotel. Overnight Helsinki.



Day 2 Helsinki

After breakfast, make your way to the meeting point at Esplanade Park, Fabianinkatu at least 15 mins before your 11:00 Audio City Tour commences (1 hr 45 mins). Your Helsinki Panorama Sightseeing takes in the most interesting parts of Helsinki, such as the historical centre, City Hall, the Parliament buildings, Finlandia Hall and the Opera House. Your afternoon is free. Overnight Helsinki. **B**

Day 3 Helsinki to Turku & Naantali

After breakfast, cross the square to Helsinki train station, approximately 150m from your hotel. At 11:37 board your direct train to Turku (approximately 2 hours). Arrive Turku, where you will be met and transferred by private taxi to Naantali Spa & Hotel (approx. 16 km/ 23 min drive). Overnight Naantali Spa & Hotel. **BD**

Day 4 Naantali

This morning, you have a 4-hour city tour by private car and guide, of Turku, Finland's food capital. Begin with a visit to the Market Hall, the perfect location to learn about the development of

Turku's cuisine. You'll sample some local delicacies, followed by a city tour by car with your own guide. After a photo stop at the Cathedral, you visit the 13th century Turku Castle. The castle is one of the oldest buildings still in use and the largest surviving medieval building in Finland. At the end of your tour you will be transferred back to your spa hotel. (The Market hall is closed on Sundays and the Castle is closed on Mondays in winter.) Overnight Naantali. **BD**

Day 5 Naantali to Rovaniemi

Today is free to relax or explore independently. This evening, you will be transferred by pre-booked taxi to Turku railway station for your overnight train journey on the Santa Claus Express to Rovaniemi, the home of Santa Claus, departing at 21:25. Overnight on board the Santa Claus Express in 2-berth private sleeper cabin with en-suite toilet and shower. **B**



Day 6 Rovaniemi

Arrive Rovaniemi railway station at 11:05. You will be met by an English speaking driver and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight Rovaniemi.

Day 7 Rovaniemi

Today you join a husky safari group with an English speaking guide for 10 km (approx. 2.5 hrs). After a short drive from town, you'll arrive at a husky farm, where these friendly dogs will bark an enthusiastic welcome to you. Before departing on the safari, you will be given instructions on how to control the sleds. Once you return to the farm, enjoy some hot berry juice by an open fire and chat with the head musher about these amazing northern animals. You will be provided with a thermal outfit to wear. Overnight Rovaniemi. **B**

Day 8 Rovaniemi to Sinettä

After breakfast, you will be transferred by your English speaking driver to the Arctic Snowhotel. This evening, enjoy a 3-course dinner at the hotel's Lumikartano restaurant. Overnight Sinettä. **BD**

Day 9 Sinettä to Rovaniemi

Tour services end after breakfast, with your transfer to Rovaniemi airport. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.

Applicable 2020/2021.

Daily departures 11 Nov 2020-31 Mar 2021.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
11 Nov 2020-31 Mar 2021	4399	6859
If only one person on tour		POA

■ **Surcharge and special conditions apply 23 Dec-8 Jan.**



Stockholm

Stockholm & Copenhagen

Stopovers – 3 days/2 nights

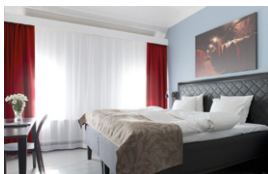
Stockholm stopover

Stopover prices

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel	Stopover	
	Twn	Sgl
FIRST HOTEL NORRTULL		
	from 346	511
CLARION HOTEL AMARANTEN		
	from 390	606

Stockholm hotels



First Hotel Norrtull ★★ ★★

Sankt Eriksgatan 119

Housed in a heritage-listed 1920s former warehouse, this cash-free hotel is located in central Stockholm, in the heart of the Vasastaden district, with airport coach and bus stops at the entrance. 125 bright, modern rooms with flat screen TV, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, lobby bar.



Clarion Hotel Amaranthen ★★ ★★

Kungsholmgatan 31

Modern boutique hotel with flamboyant 60s-inspired design and great dining options, located in the popular Kungsholmen district of Stockholm, 10 mins walk from the city centre. Rooms with TV, minibar, iron/board, free Wi-Fi. This is a cash-free hotel with a restaurant, bar and gym.

Inclusions

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Stockholm Hop on Hop off City tour

Sightseeing

Stockholm Hop on Hop off City tour (24 hrs validity)

Hop aboard one of our Hop on Hop off City tour buses and explore Stockholm and its sights at your own pace during 24 hours. The bus stops at famous attractions like Grona Lund, Skansen, Fjällgatan, City Hall, Abba Museum, Ice Bar, the Royal Palace, Old Town and several popular shopping districts. The unlimited bus ticket is valid for 24 hours, includes audio guides in 9 languages and there is free Wi-Fi on-board. You can board the bus at any of the 17 stops, and take time at any of these locations before reboarding. Look out for the green buses. Daily.



Stockholm, Drottningholm Palace

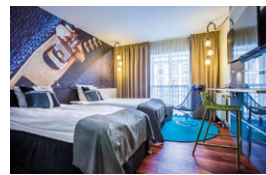
Copenhagen stopover

Stopover prices

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel	Stopover	
	Twn	Sgl
COMFORT HOTEL VESTERBRO		
	from 449	680
FIRST HOTEL KONG FREDERIK		
	from 488	704

Copenhagen hotels



Comfort Hotel Vesterbro ★★ ★★

Vesterbrogade 23-29

Located in Copenhagen's trendy downtown area, this eco-friendly hotel is a 10 minute walk to the Tivoli Gardens and City Hall Square. All 400 rooms feature Sat-TV, safe, A/C, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, bar, gym.



First Hotel Kong Frederik ★★ ★★

Vester Voldgade 25

Built in 1900 and lovingly restored in the original classic English style, this hotel is only 200m from the pedestrian street Strøget, the City Hall Square and a five-minute walk from Tivoli. 100 rooms in library, romantic or classic style, with TV, minibar, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, bar.

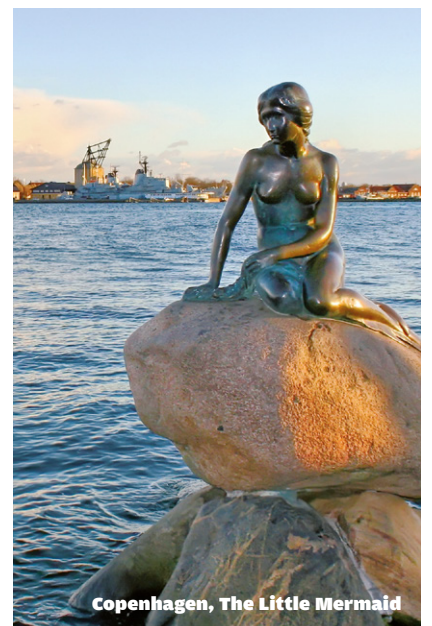
Inclusions

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Copenhagen Hop on Hop off City tour
- Entrance to Tivoli Gardens

Sightseeing

Copenhagen Hop on Hop off City tour (24 hrs validity)

Enjoy beautiful Copenhagen at your own pace with Open Top Tours and the popular Hop on Hop off City bus tour. The tour covers all of the highlights in Copenhagen while allowing you to hop on and off as much as you like. Your ticket is valid for 24 hours and the entire tour takes 1 hour. The buses are adapted with an electric roof that closes in the event of rain and buses are heated during winter. The Open Top Tour tickets are also loaded with discounts to several popular attractions, guided tours and restaurants. Daily.



Copenhagen, The Little Mermaid



Bergen

Oslo & Bergen

Stopovers – 3 days/2 nights

Oslo stopover

Inclusions

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Oslo Hop on Hop off City tour

Stopover prices

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Hotel	Stopover		
	TwN	Sgl	
THON HOTEL ASTORIA	from	336	511
THON HOTEL OPERA	from	427	609

Sightseeing

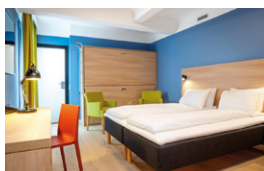
Oslo Hop on Hop off City tour (24 hrs validity)

With this Hop on Hop off City tour you will see some of the most interesting and popular sights of Scandinavia's sunniest capital. Discover this beautiful city surrounded by magnificent scenery from the fjord to the forested hills. The city also offers a fascinating and dramatic history. You will be able to visit museums and art collections, as well as pass by the most popular sights of Oslo. Transportation is by double decker bus. Daily.



Oslo, Vigeland sculpture park

Oslo hotels



Thon Hotel Astoria ★★★

Dronningensgate 21
Budget-friendly hotel, centrally located just off the main shopping street Karl Johan gate. 178 compact rooms with LED TV, free Wi-Fi.



Thon Hotel Opera ★★★★★

Dronning Eufemias gate 4
Modern minimalist 1st class hotel located near Oslo Central Station and Airport Express Train Terminal. 480 attractive rooms with Sat-TV, minibar, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant, bar, fitness centre.

Bergen stopover

Inclusions

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Bergen Hop on Hop off City tour

Stopover prices

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

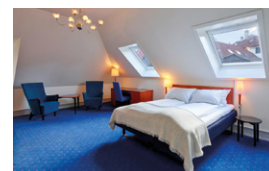
Hotel	Stopover		
	TwN	Sgl	
AUGUSTIN	from	344	484
ZANDER K	from	366	530

Sightseeing

Bergen Hop on Hop off City tour (24 hrs validity)

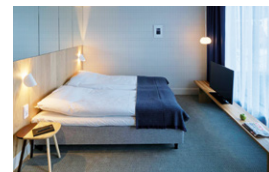
This Hop on Hop off City tour stops at all major sights. The 13 stops include Bryggen, with its shops, galleries and cafes; the Hanseatic Museum and Bryggen Museum; the Fish Market located in the harbour; Bergen Aquarium; the Fløibanen funicular which takes you to the top of Mount in 6 minutes (ticket not included) and more. Daily 27 Apr-15 Sep, except 17 May.

Bergen hotels



Augustin ★★★

C. Sundts gate 22
Bergen's oldest family-run hotel located close to Bergen's Express boat terminal, fish market and Floiban funicular. Rooms with TV, free Wi-Fi. The 400-year old Altona Inn is now an award-winning wine bar and restaurant. Popular, relaxed atmosphere.



Zander K ★★★★★

Zander Kaees gate 8
Ultra-modern, designer hotel located in the heart of Bergen, adjacent to Bergen railway station. 249 contemporary rooms with flat screen TV, free Wi-Fi. Wine bar, restaurant, gym. Shortlisted for the best urban hotel in 2017, excellent reviews.

Norway in a nutshell

Tailor-made tour – 6 days/5 nights

Inclusions

- 5 nights accommodation with breakfast at 4-star hotels
- 1 dinner
- Arrival/departure transfers by car on days 1 and 6
- Train Oslo-Myrdal-Flåm Railway
- Ferry Flåm-Gudvangen, bus Gudvangen-Voss, train Voss-Bergen
- Oslo – private City tour by car with your own **English speaking** guide
- Bergen – private walking tour with your own **English speaking** guide
- Funicular railway to Mount Fløyen

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD, based on low season. Applicable 2020.

Departures	TwN	Sgl	
2020	from	2995	4756



Sweden, Stockholm

Fjords & Capitals of Scandinavia

Escorted coach, rail & ferry tour - 11 days/10 nights



This tour takes you to the Scandinavian capitals and Norwegian fjords and glaciers, featuring some of the world's most spectacular scenery. You will experience the incredible natural beauty of deep fjords, glaciers, majestic mountains and picturesque villages, as well as the vitality of the three uniquely different Scandinavian capitals.

Inclusions

- 10 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Meals - 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Transportation by A/C coach or train
- Ferry - Flåm-Gudvangen, Vangsnes-Dragsvik, Dragsvik-Hella-Dragsvik, Balestrand-Flåm
- Rail - Flåm Railway, 2nd class rail Myrdal-Geilo
- English speaking tour escort throughout
- Sightseeing as specified with local English speaking guides
- City tours of Bergen, Oslo, Stockholm & Copenhagen

Your hotels

- Bergen - Scandic Neptun
- Norheimsund - Thon Hotel Sandven
- Balestrand - Kvikne's
- Oslo - Scandic St. Olav Plass
- Stockholm - Scandic Malmen
- Copenhagen - Comfort Vesterbro

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Sun. Bergen

Arrive Bergen. Make your own way to your hotel. Meet your tour escort and fellow travellers this evening at a welcome meeting. Overnight Bergen.

Day 2 Mon. Bergen to Hardangerfjord & Norheimsund

Morning sightseeing tour of Bergen, including the popular fish market and historical Bryggen. Depart for Norheimsund via the beautiful Hardangerfjord. Overnight Norheimsund. **BD**

Day 3 Tue. Norheimsund to Flåm & Balestrand

After breakfast, continue your journey via Voss to Stalheimen, located at the very top of the Nærøydalen Canyon, with a panoramic view of the valley. Drive via the panoramic route to the idyllic village of Flåm from where you take a fjord cruise to Gudvangen. Continue by coach to Vangsnes, crossing the Sognefjord, the longest and deepest fjord in Norway, arriving Balestrand for hotel check-in and dinner. Overnight Balestrand. **BD**

Day 4 Wed. Balestrand & Jostedal Glacier

Travel by ferry across the Fjærland before reaching Jostedal and the Breheimsenteret Glacier Centre (lunch and entrance fee included). The Jostedal Glacier is the largest on the European mainland. The small lake in front of the glacier can be crossed by passenger ferry. Overnight Balestrand. **BLD**

Day 5 Thu. Balestrand to Flåm & Oslo

Mid-morning departure across the Sognefjord to Flåm, before taking one of the most beautiful rail journeys in the world - the Flåm Railway. This spectacular rail journey offers a panoramic view of some of the wildest and most magnificent scenery in the Norwegian fjord landscape. The Flåm Railway is one of the steepest train lines in the world on normal tracks. Upon arrival at the mountain station of Myrdal, you change trains to Geilo and continue by coach to the Norwegian capital Oslo. Overnight Oslo. **B**

Day 6 Fri. Oslo

This morning you have a city tour of Oslo. Highlights include the Vigeland Park with its 200 sculptures and a visit to Holmenkollen ski jump for panoramic city views. Your afternoon is free to explore the Old Town or take one of the local ferries to Bygdøy peninsula and visit one of the many museums. Overnight Oslo. **B**

Day 7 Sat. Oslo to Stockholm

Travel by coach or train through the picturesque countryside of Norway and Sweden, arriving Stockholm mid-afternoon. The remainder of the day is free. Overnight Stockholm. **B**

Day 8 Sun. Stockholm

After breakfast, begin your city tour of Stockholm, spanning 14 islands. You will see the old city centre of Gamla Stan, the 700-year-old cathedral of Stockholm, Stortorget Square and Fjällgatan with panoramic views of the city. Your afternoon is at leisure. Overnight Stockholm. **B**

Day 9 Mon. Stockholm to Copenhagen

Morning departure by coach or train for Copenhagen. Travel south through the Swedish countryside via the coastal city of Malmö, connected to Copenhagen by the Øresund Bridge - one of the longest in the world. In Copenhagen, the rest of your day is free. Overnight Copenhagen. **B**

Day 10 Tue. Copenhagen

Morning city tour of Copenhagen. Highlights include the old waterfront district at Nyhavn, the Royal Palace at Amalienborg and the Little Mermaid statue. You may wish to explore the iconic Tivoli Gardens during your free afternoon (entrance not included). Overnight Copenhagen. **B**

Day 11 Wed. Copenhagen

Tour services end today after breakfast. **B**



Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Sunday departures Jun-Aug 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
7 Jun, 21 Jun, 28 Jun, 5 Jul, 12 Jul, 26 Jul, 2 Aug, 16 Aug	4785	5848

- Maximum capacity of tour - 20 guests.
- Smaller groups may travel by train instead of coach.



Norway's Fjords & Glaciers

Escorted coach & ferry tour - 7 days/6 nights



This extended 'Norway in a Nutshell' round-trip takes you through some spectacular scenery, with deep fjords, glaciers, picturesque villages and majestic mountains. Highlights include the Hardangerfjord and Sognefjord, with a visit to the foot of one of the most accessible glaciers in Norway: Nigardsbreen glacier, which is an arm of the large Jostedalsglacier, the largest glacier in the world. We recommend arriving the day before the tour to ensure you don't miss the opportunity to take the famous funicular railway known as Fløibanen, offering amazing views.

Inclusions

- 6 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Meals - 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- Transportation by A/C coach
- Ferry - Flåm-Gudvangen, Vangsnes-Dragsvik, Dragsvik-Hella-Dragsvik, Balestrand-Flåm
- English speaking tour escort throughout
- Sightseeing as specified with local English speaking guides
- City tours of Bergen & Oslo, Flåm Railway, 2nd class rail Myrdal-Geilo

Your hotels

- Bergen - Scandic Neptun
- Norheimsund - Thon Hotel Sandven
- Balestrand - Kvikne's
- Oslo - Scandic St. Olav Plass

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

at the mountain station of Myrdal, you change trains to Geilo and continue by coach to the Norwegian capital Oslo. Overnight Oslo. **B**

Day 6 Fri. Oslo

This morning you have a city tour of Oslo. Highlights include Vigeland Park with its 200 sculptures and a visit to Holmenkollen ski jump for panoramic city views. Your afternoon is free to explore independently - a walk around the Old Town is highly recommended. Overnight Oslo. **B**

Day 7 Sat. Oslo

Tour services end today after breakfast. **B**

Day 1 Sun. Bergen

Arrive Bergen. Make your own way to your hotel. Meet your tour escort and fellow travellers this evening at a welcome meeting. Why not arrive a day earlier to give yourself more time to explore Bergen at leisure and take the not-to-be missed funicular railway known as Fløibanen, to the top of the nearby mountains for some stunning views. Overnight Bergen.

Day 2 Mon. Bergen to Hardangerfjord & Norheimsund

Morning sightseeing tour of Bergen, including the popular fish market and historical Bryggen. Depart for Norheimsund via the beautiful Hardangerfjord. Overnight Norheimsund. **BD**

Day 3 Tue. Norheimsund to Flåm & Balestrand

After breakfast, travel via Voss to Stalheimen, located at the very top of the Nærøydalen Canyon with a panoramic view of the valley. Continue the panoramic route to the idyllic village of Flåm, from where you take a fjord cruise to Gudvangen. Continue by coach to Vangsnes, crossing the Sognefjord, the longest and deepest fjord in Norway, arriving Balestrand for hotel check-in and dinner. Overnight Balestrand. **BD**

Day 4 Wed. Balestrand & Jostedal Glacier

Travel by ferry across the Fjærlandfjord before reaching Jostedal and the Breheimsenteret Glacier Centre located near the Jostedal Glacier. The Jostedal Glacier is the largest glacier on the European mainland. The entire glacier and some of the nearby valleys are protected as a national park. In front of the glacier is a small lake which can be crossed by

passenger ferry. Lunch and entrance fee are included at the Breheimsenteret Glacier Centre. Overnight Balestrand. **BLD**

Day 5 Thu. Balestrand to Flåm & Oslo

Mid-morning departure across the Sognefjord to Flåm, before taking one of the most beautiful rail journeys in the world - the Flåm Railway. This spectacular rail journey offers a panoramic view of some of the wildest and most magnificent scenery in the Norwegian fjord landscape. The Flåm Railway is one of the steepest train lines in the world on normal tracks, where almost 80 percent of the journey has a gradient of 5.5 degrees. Upon arrival

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Sunday departures Jun-Aug 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
7 Jun, 21 Jun, 28 Jun, 5 Jul, 12 Jul, 26 Jul, 2 Aug, 16 Aug	3189	3803

■ **Maximum capacity of tour - 20 guests.**



Boat to Nigard glacier © Sverre Hjørnevik

NEW

The North Cape & Northern Lights

Escorted coach & rail tour - 11 days/10 nights

Small
Group
Tour

This winter adventure takes you to the outermost regions of Finland and Norway - from Saariselkä to Tromsø and an expedition to the North Cape Plateau. You will have a range of winter activities to enjoy, including a cruise on the Sampo Arctic icebreaker and husky safari. And if you are lucky, you will see the amazing Northern Lights.

Inclusions

- 1 night accommodation with breakfast in Glass Villa
- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast in Glass Igloos
- 7 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Meals - 1 lunch, 6 dinners
- Transportation by A/C coach
- 2nd class rail Helsinki-Kemi
- **English speaking** tour escort throughout
- Sightseeing as specified with local **English speaking** guides

Your hotels

- **Helsinki** - Sokos Vaakuna
- **Kemi** - Seaside Glass Villa
- **Saariselkä** - Northern Lights Village, Glass Igloos
- **Karasjok** - Scandic Karasjok
- **Honningsvåg** - Scandic Nordkapp
- **Alta** - Scandic Alta
- **Tromsø** - Clarion Hotel the Edge

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted

The North Cape cliff itself will be visited today (subject to weather conditions). Arrive Honningsvåg and enjoy dinner, before your overnight in the northernmost city in Norway. **BD**

Day 8 Fri. Honningsvåg to Alta

Travel south today, along the Porsanger fjord to Alta, known as 'the Northern Lights city of Norway'. This afternoon, visit the Alta Museum to learn about the local history of Northern Lights. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free. You may join an optional local Northern Lights safari, in and around Alta. You may wish to upgrade to the Sorrisniva Igloo Hotel (supplement applies). Overnight Alta. **B**

Day 9 Sat. Alta to Tromsø

Today, drive along the arctic fjords bound for Tromsø, a starting point of many North Pole expeditions. You have some free time before your Northern Lights safari, this evening, where a light dinner will be included. **BD**

Day 10 Sun. Tromsø

Today is at leisure to relax or you may take an optional snowmobile safari, husky safari or choose from many more exciting excursions. Overnight Tromsø. **B**

Day 11 Mon. Tromsø

Tour services end today after breakfast. **B**

Day 1 Fri. Helsinki

Upon arrival, make your own way to your hotel. This evening, meet your tour leader and fellow travellers at the hotel for a welcome drink. Overnight Helsinki.

Day 2 Sat. Helsinki

Discover Helsinki, Finland's capital, on a 3-hour city tour. Your local guide will show you the most famous sights such as the

Senate Square with the Helsinki Cathedral, the market square, the Orthodox Uspenski Cathedral, the Olympic Stadium and the Parliament. See the Sibelius monument, one of Helsinki's most famous statues and dedicated to the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. Lastly visit the unique Tempeliakio Church, also known as the 'Church in the Rock'. Afternoon and evening at leisure. Overnight Helsinki. **B**

Day 3 Sun. Helsinki to Kemi

This morning, cross the street to Helsinki Central Station and board your northbound train to Kemi. Journey through magical landscapes with endless snow-covered forests and lakes covered with ice. Arrive Kemi late afternoon and transfer to your hotel. Dinner tonight is at your hotel. Overnight Kemi in a glass villa with a view of the starry northern sky. **BD**

Day 4 Mon. Kemi to Rovaniemi & Saariselkä

Morning at leisure in Kemi, with the opportunity to take an optional snowmobile safari, husky safari or one of the many other exciting excursions offered. This afternoon, transfer to the port of Kemi and board the majestic Sampo Arctic Icebreaker for a unique cruise, crushing through the thick ice on the Gulf of Bothnia. Travelling further north through Finnish Lapland and towards the Arctic Circle, enjoy dinner at a

local restaurant in Rovaniemi before continuing to Saariselkä and the Northern Lights Village for overnight. **BD**

Day 5 Tue. Saariselkä

Today you take a husky safari through the snowy forests and fells. Driving a team of huskies over the white, shimmering fells is an unforgettable experience. This evening, you visit an Aurora Camp by one of the local lakes. In a cozy hut by the fire, enjoy a warm drink and prepare a traditional Lapland midnight snack and if the sky is clear, you may be lucky enough to experience the enigmatic Northern Lights. Overnight Saariselkä. **BLD**

Day 6 Wed. Saariselkä to Inari & Karasjok

Morning departure by coach, stopping at Inari to visit the Siida Sami Museum. Continue north-west, crossing the border into Norway. Soon after, you arrive at Karasjok, the Sami capital and home of the Sami Parliament, 'Samediggi'. Overnight and dinner in Karasjok. **BD**

Day 7 Thu. Karasjok to Honningsvåg & North Cape

After an early morning departure, your journey continues north, bound for the North Cape. Travelling through the North Cape tunnel you reach the Magerøya Island on which the North Cape is situated.



Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Friday departures Jan-Mar 2021.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
15 Jan, 22 Jan, 29 Jan, 5 Feb, 12 Feb, 19 Feb, 26 Feb, 12 Mar	7036	8981

■ **Maximum capacity of tour - 20 guests.**



Bucharest

Stopover & hotels

Stopover - 3 days/2 nights

Inclusions

- 2 nights accommodation with breakfast
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- City Tour including visit to Palace of the Parliament and Village Museum (4 hrs)

Stopover prices

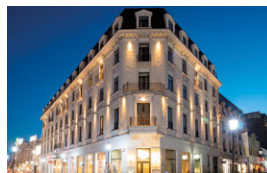
Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable Jan-Dec 2020.

Hotel/Season	Stopover	
	Twn	Sgl
LE BOUTIQUE MOXA		
1 Jan-26 Feb, 15 Jul-24 Sep, 15-31 Dec	461	858
27 Feb-14 Jul, 25 Sep-14 Dec	520	929
EUROPA ROYALE		
1 Jan-29 Feb, 16 Jul-31 Aug, 16 Nov-31 Dec	496	884
1 Mar-15 Jul, 1 Sep-15 Nov	532	964
GRAND CONTINENTAL		
1 Jan-28 Feb, 1 Jul-23 Sep, 1-31 Dec	603	1118
1 Mar-30 Jun, 24 Sep-30 Nov	667	1201
ATHENE PALACE HILTON		
1 Jan-5 Feb, 15 Jul-31 Aug, 14-31 Dec	733	1260
6 Feb-14 Jul, 1 Sep-13 Dec	780	1458

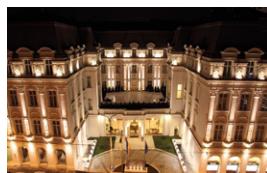
Hotels



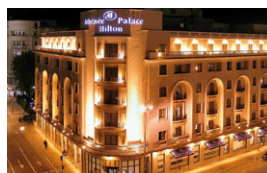
Le Boutique Moxa ★★★★★
4 Mihail Moxa St.
Boutique hotel with style in classic building near the centre. 58 classic rooms with A/C, Sat-TV, safe, minibar, free Wi-Fi. Restaurant and sauna with spa.



Europa Royale ★★★★★
60 Franceza St.
Popular 4-star hotel in the Old Town. 92 stylish modern rooms with A/C, Sat-TV, safe, mini-bar, free Wi-Fi. Swiss restaurant.



Grand Continental ★★★★★
56 Calea Victoriei
Boutique hotel in historic building. 59 rooms with A/C, Sat-TV, safe, minibar, Wi-Fi, coffee/tea in room. Fine dining restaurant, bistro and bar. Spa, sauna & health club.



Athene Palace Hilton ★★★★★
1-3 Episcopiei St.
Historic hotel in the city. Walking distance to the Romanian Athenaeum. 272 modern rooms with A/C, Sat-TV, safe, minibar, free Wi-Fi. Restaurants, bar, fitness centre, pool.

Transylvania

Privately escorted tour

Transylvania Experience - 4 days/3 nights

Inclusions

- 3 nights accommodation with breakfast in central traditional 3-star hotels
- Meals - 1 lunch at typical Transylvanian farmhouse with organic orchard
- English speaking driver/guide with modern A/C car
- Sightseeing & entrances as indicated

Your hotels

- **Sibiu** - Imparatul Romanilor
 - **Sighisoara** - Sighisoara or Casa Wagner
 - **Brasov** - Bella Muzica or Casa Wagner
- Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.*

Day 1 Bucharest to Sibiu

Depart Bucharest with your driver/guide and visit first the Cozia Monastery, built by Mircea the Old, grandfather of Vlad the Impaler (Dracula). Arrive in Sibiu, where you enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town. Overnight Sibiu.

Day 2 Sibiu to Sighisoara

Travel to Biertan to visit the fortified Saxon church, something totally unique to Transylvania. Then at the nearby village of Malancrav you'll lunch in the home of a farming family on delicious local dishes. Afterwards visit a farm and organic orchard. Arrive in Sighisoara late afternoon at your traditional hotel in the centre of this amazing medieval walled citadel. Tonight is free to explore the old town at your leisure and perhaps dine [optional] in the very house where Vlad the Impaler was born! Overnight Sighisoara. **BL**

Day 3 Sighisoara to Brasov

This morning you will visit the Clock Tower Museum, Weapons Museum, the Torture Chamber, the Wooden Staircase and the Church on the Hill. Drive on to Viscri for a short visit to this quiet village to see the fortified church and the exterior of the simple cottage that Prince Charles restored and owns. Drive to Brasov for a late lunch [not included] followed by a walking tour of this 14th century city to include the Black Church and the first Romanian school. Overnight Brasov. **B**

Day 4 Brasov to Bucharest

This morning you take a short drive to Bran Castle, often referred to as 'Dracula's Castle'. Built in 1378 as a toll station it has a dramatic fairy tale appearance, but unconnected with Vlad Tepes (Dracula). At the mountain resort of Sinaia visit the monastery and Peles Castle, the former summer residence of Romania's royal family. Late afternoon arrive in Bucharest where your tour services end or extend your stay in Bucharest. **B**



Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable Jan-Dec 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Dec	1595	1780
If only one person on tour		2970

■ *Itinerary order changes may occur depending on day of departure.*



Bucharest, Palace of the Parliament

Romania in Depth

Privately escorted tour - 11 days/10 nights

On this comprehensive tour you'll see and experience all the best that this fascinating country has to offer - the highlights of Bucharest, Transylvania, Maramures and Bukovina. The itinerary is completely flexible and can be tailored to suit your requirements.

Inclusions

- 10 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels and guesthouse
- Meals - 1 dinner at Polizu Manor
- Arrival transfer by private car
- Transportation by modern A/C vehicle with **English speaking** driver/guide
- Sightseeing as specified including trip by Mocanita steam train

Your hotels

- **Bucharest** - Europa Royale
- **Sibiu** - Imparatul Romanilor
- **Sighisoara** - Casa Wagner
- **Cluj-Napoca** - Siago Guesthouse
- **Sighetu Marmatiei** - Gradina Morii
- **Sucevita** - Sofia
- **Maxut** - Polizu Manor
- **Brasov** - Bella Muzica

Hotels or guesthouses of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Bucharest

Arrive Bucharest and transfer by private car to your stylish 4-star hotel, the Europa Royale. Overnight Bucharest.

Day 2 Bucharest

This morning's 'French and modern Bucharest tour' begins from Mitropoly Hill, followed by the Romanian Atheneum and Royal Palace/National Art Museum. Visit the Cotroceni Palace which houses the National Cotroceni Museum and is the official residence of the President of Romania. Tour the Palace of the Parliament - the second largest administrative building in the world. Continue out of Bucharest to the beautiful Mogosoaia Palace, built by Constantin Brancoveanu between 1698 and 1702. Overnight Bucharest. **B**

Day 3 Bucharest to Sibiu

Leave Bucharest and drive first to the Cozia Monastery, built 600 years ago by Mircea the Old, the grandfather of Vlad the Impaler. Continue to Sibiu for a leisurely walking tour of the Old Town. Overnight Sibiu. **B**

Day 4 Sibiu to Sighisoara

Travel to Alba Iulia, known as Apulum during the Roman period when it was a military settlement. Since the high Middle Ages, the city has been the seat of Transylvania's Roman Catholic diocese. Continue to Biertan to visit the unique,

UNESCO-listed fortified Saxon church. Arrive Sighisoara late afternoon and check into your traditional hotel, located within the medieval walled citadel. Walk along the cobbled streets, explore the citadel at your leisure and perhaps dine in the house where Vlad the Impaler was born. Overnight Sighisoara. **B**

Day 5 Sighisoara to Cluj-Napoca

This morning you'll visit the Clock Tower Museum, Weapons Museum, the Torture Chamber, the Wooden Staircase and the Church on the Hill. Then drive to the historic 17th century Castle Haller for lunch (not included) and continue to Cluj-Napoca for a city tour including a visit to the 14th century St. Michael Cathedral. Overnight Cluj-Napoca. **B**

Day 6 Cluj to Sighetu Marmatiei

Today you travel to the Maramures region with its beautiful villages, traditional houses and carved wooden gates. At Sapanta visit the 'Merry Cemetery' with its brightly painted, carved wooden crosses and humorous illustrations. Stop for lunch (not included) in a traditional trout house in Mara village and visit Barsana Monastery. Overnight Sighetu Marmatiei. **B**

Day 7 Sighetu to Sucevita

Depart early for a unique and unforgettable steam train trip on the 'Mocanita', used from 1932 to transport forest workers. You'll enjoy the splendours of the unspoiled forest and rivers of the Vaser Valley, in the Maramures Mountains Nature Park. Mid afternoon, drive to Bukovina via Borgo Pass where the Irish novelist Bram Stoker located Castle Dracula. Overnight Sucevita. **B**

Day 8 Sucevita

Today is devoted to visiting the famous 15th century painted monasteries of

Bukovina. The vivid colours of these UNESCO-listed monasteries - Sucevita, Moldovita and Voronet - have been remarkably preserved to this day. You will also visit the black pottery centre of Marginea. Overnight Sucevita. **B**

Day 9 Sucevita to Maxut

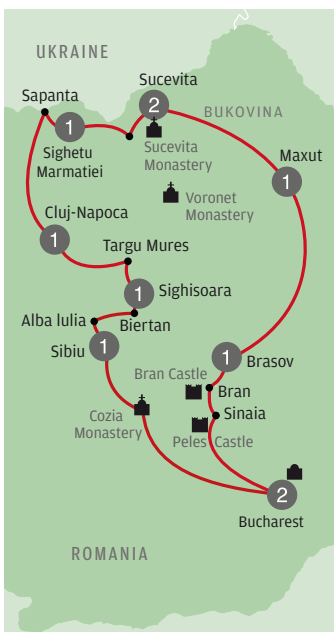
Travel through the Moldovian hills to the village of Maxut. Your accommodation is at the 19th century Polizu Manor, surrounded by orchards and vineyards. Dinner tonight will be at the Manor. Overnight Maxut. **BD**

Day 10 Maxut to Brasov

Head south this morning through the dramatic Bicaz Gorges and see the spectacular Red Lake on your way to Transylvania and Brasov. Your sightseeing of this picturesque 14th century city includes the Black Church, St. Nicholas Church and the museum of the first school in Romania. Overnight Brasov. **B**

Day 11 Brasov to Bucharest

This morning, you take a short drive to Bran Castle, often referred to as 'Dracula's Castle'. Built in 1378 as a toll station, it has a dramatic fairy tale appearance but little connection with Vlad Tepes (Dracula). Continue to the mountain resort of Sinaia to visit the monastery and Peles Castle. Dating from 1695, it was the summer residence of Romania's royal family. Tour services end with your late afternoon arrival in Bucharest. **B**



Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable Jan-Dec 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Dec	3996	4634
If only one person on tour		7538



Folk dancers

Discover Bulgaria

Privately escorted tour - 9 days/8 nights

Inclusions

- 8 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star hotels
- Meals - 7 lunches, 8 dinners
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Transportation by modern A/C vehicle with **English speaking** driver/guide
- Sightseeing as specified

Your hotels

- Sofia - BW City Hotel
- Plovdiv - Imperial
- Veliko Tarnovo - Panorama
- Ruse - Dunav Plaza

Hotel of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Sofia

Arrive Sofia. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Sofia. **D**

Day 2 Sofia & Rila Monastery

Morning departure for the UNESCO-listed Rila Monastery complex. It was founded in the 10th century by the hermit Ivan Rilsky, who was canonised as a patron saint of

Bulgaria. It is the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. Overnight Sofia. **BLD**

Day 3 Sofia to Plovdiv

After breakfast, your tour of Sofia introduces you to its 7,000-year old history. You will see St. Sofia Church, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the 4th century St. George Rotunda and the ruins of Serdica. Continue to Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second largest city. Overnight Plovdiv. **BLD**

Day 4 Plovdiv & Bachkovo Monastery

Your morning tour of Plovdiv, one of the most ancient towns in Europe, features the Old Town, with its 19th century National Revival architecture and 2nd century Roman amphitheatre. Then visit the 11th century Bachkovo Monastery, one of the richest treasuries of traditional Bulgarian religious art. Overnight Plovdiv. **BLD**

Day 5 Plovdiv to Kazanlak, Tryavna & Veliko Tarnovo

Depart for Kazanlak, capital of the famous Valley of the Roses. View the Thracian golden treasures in Kazanlak's Historical Museum and the replica of the UNESCO-

listed Thracian Tomb dating back to the 4th century BC. Travel through the historical Shipka Pass to Tryavna, which preserves the spirit and talent of the artists from the Tryavna School of Art from the 17th century. Take a walking tour and visit the Woodcarving Museum. Continue to Veliko Tarnovo. Overnight Veliko Tarnovo. **BLD**

Day 6 Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanasi

This morning, you have a sightseeing tour of Veliko Tarnovo, the ancient capital of the second Bulgarian kingdom (1185-1396), with a spectacular setting, high above the Yantra River. Take a walking tour of Samovodska Charshiya with its traditional arts and crafts and visit Tsarevets Hill. Continue to the historic museum town of Arbanasi and see its ancient houses and churches. Overnight Veliko Tarnovo. **BLD**

Day 7 Veliko Tarnovo to Madara, Sveshtari & Ruse

After breakfast, drive to Madara to visit the UNESCO-listed Madara Horseman - a medieval relief carved into a 100m high cliff, depicting a majestic horseman thrusting a spear into a lion at his feet. Continue to Sveshtari, to visit the Sveshtari

Thracian Tomb, also UNESCO-listed. This exquisite three-chamber burial tomb from the 3rd century BC is almost perfectly preserved and includes 10 female figures supporting the ceiling. Continue to Ruse for a walking tour. Overnight Ruse. **BLD**

Day 8 Ruse to Ivanovo & Sofia

Morning departure for Ivanovo, where you will see the UNESCO-listed rock-hewn churches and Archangel Michael Rock Monastery. Return to Ruse for some time at leisure, before your afternoon departure to Sofia. Overnight Sofia. **BLD**

Day 9 Sofia

Tour services end after breakfast, with a transfer to the airport. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable Jan-Dec 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-14 Dec	4006	4692
If only one person on tour		7800

■ **Small group tours conducted by bilingual escort also available.**



Rila Monastery



Romania, Bran Castle

NEW

Bulgaria & Romania Explorer

Privately escorted tour - 14 days/13 nights

Explore Bulgaria and Romania at your own pace with your personal English speaking driver-guides. We have included the important highlights in this suggested itinerary, which is flexible and can be tailored to your specific interests.

Inclusions

- 13 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Meals - Bulgaria - 7 lunches, 7 dinners
- Romania - 1 lunch with local family in Transylvania
- Transportation by modern A/C vehicle with **English speaking** driver-guides
- Sightseeing as specified

Your hotels

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| ■ Sofia - BW City Hotel | ■ Bucharest - Europa Royale |
| ■ Plovdiv - Imperial | ■ Sibiu - Imperatul Romanilor |
| ■ Veliko Tarnovo - Panorama | ■ Sighisoara - Sighisoara or Casa Wagner |
| ■ Ruse - Dunav Plaza | ■ Brasov - Bella Muzica or Casa Wagner |

Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

Day 1 Sofia

Arrive Sofia. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Sofia. **D**

Day 2 Sofia & Rila Monastery

Morning departure for the UNESCO-listed Rila Monastery complex. It was founded in the 10th century by the hermit Ivan Rilsky, who was canonised as a patron saint of Bulgaria. It is the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. Overnight Sofia. **BLD**

Day 3 Sofia to Plovdiv

After breakfast, you have a sightseeing tour of Sofia, Bulgaria's capital and largest city, reflecting its history which dates back 7,000 years. You will see St. Sofia Church, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the 4th century St. George Rotunda and the ruins of Serdica. Continue to Plovdiv, Bulgaria's

second largest city and culture capital. Overnight Plovdiv. **BLD**

Day 4 Plovdiv & Bachkovo Monastery

Your morning tour of Plovdiv, one of the most ancient towns in Europe, features the Old Town, with its 19th century National Revival architecture and the 2nd century Roman amphitheatre. Continue your tour with a visit to the 11th century Bachkovo Monastery, one of the richest treasuries of traditional Bulgarian religious art. Overnight Plovdiv. **BLD**

Day 5 Plovdiv to Kazanlak, Tryavna & Veliko Tarnovo

Depart for Kazanlak, the capital of the famous Valley of the Roses. View the Thracian golden treasures in Kazanlak's Historical Museum and the replica of the UNESCO-listed Thracian Tomb dating back



Romania, Sinaia, Peles Castle



Bulgaria, Rila Monastery

to the 4th century BC. Travel through the historical Shipka Pass to Tryavna, which preserves the spirit and talent of the artists from the Tryavna School of Art from the 17th century. Take a walking tour and visit the Woodcarving Museum. Continue to Veliko Tarnovo. Overnight Veliko Tarnovo. **BLD**

Day 6 Veliko Tarnovo & Arbanasi

This morning, you have a sightseeing tour of Veliko Tarnovo, the ancient capital of the second Bulgarian Kingdom (1185-1396), with a spectacular setting, high above the Yantra River. Take a walking tour of Samovodska Charshiya with its traditional arts and crafts and visit Tsarevets Hill. Continue to the historic museum town of Arbanasi and see its ancient houses and churches. Overnight Veliko Tarnovo. **BLD**

Day 7 Veliko Tarnovo to Madara, Sveshtari & Ruse

After breakfast, drive to Madara to visit the UNESCO-listed Madara Horseman - a medieval relief carved into a 100m high cliff, depicting a majestic horseman thrusting a spear into a lion at his

feet. Continue to Sveshtari, to visit the Sveshtari Thracian Tomb, also UNESCO-listed. This exquisite three-chamber burial tomb from the 3rd century BC is almost perfectly preserved and includes 10 female figures supporting the ceiling. Continue to Ruse for a walking tour. Overnight Ruse. **BLD**

Day 8 Ruse to Ivanovo & Bucharest

Morning departure for Ivanovo, where you will see the UNESCO-listed rock-hewn churches and Archangel Michael Rock Monastery. Return to Ruse and cross the border into Romania. Your Bulgarian driver/guide will accompany you to your Bucharest hotel, before farewelling you. Overnight Bucharest. **BL**

Day 9 Bucharest

Meet your Romanian guide this morning for a 'French & Modern' tour of Bucharest. You will visit the Cotroceni Palace Museum - the official residence of the President of Romania and the infamous Palace of the Parliament - the second largest administrative building in the world. This afternoon, you will visit the Mogosoia Palace, commissioned by Constantin

Brancoveanu, the Prince of Wallachia, who was a great patron of the arts and religion. He and his four sons were imprisoned and beheaded by the Turks in 1714 for refusing to denounce their Orthodox faith. Overnight Bucharest. **B**

Day 10 Bucharest to Sibiu

Depart Bucharest with your driver/guide and visit the Cozia Monastery, built 600 years ago by Mircea the Old, the grandfather of Vlad the Impaler. Arrive Sibiu for a walking tour of the Old Town. Overnight Sibiu. **B**

Day 11 Sibiu to Sighisoara

Travel to Biertan to visit the fortified Saxon church. Then enjoy lunch with a local family in Malancrav and visit a farm and organic orchard. Continue to Sighisoara, built in the 12th century by Saxon settlers. Its medieval buildings and your hotel are enclosed within its UNESCO-listed citadel. Overnight Sighisoara. **BL**

Day 12 Sighisoara to Brasov

This morning's walking tour of Sighisoara includes the Clock Tower Museum, Weapons Museum, Torture Chamber and

the Church on the Hill. Drive to Viscri to see the fortified church and cottage owned by Prince Charles. Continue to Brasov with a break for lunch (at own expense) and have a walking tour which includes the Black Church and first Romania School. Overnight Brasov. **B**

Day 13 Brasov to Bran, Sinaia & Bucharest

After breakfast, you have a short drive to visit the iconic Bran Castle, built in 1378. Continue to the mountain resort of Sinaia to visit the monastery and Peles Castle, the former summer residence of Romania's Royal Family. Overnight Bucharest. **B**

Day 14 Depart Bucharest

After breakfast, transfer to the airport. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD. Applicable Jan-Dec 2020.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-14 Dec	6386	7474
If only one person on tour		12303



Romania, Sighisoara



Useful information

Currency

The local currency in Russia is the Rouble. Major credit cards can also be used in many restaurants, shops and hotels. Cash will be required for smaller purchases, such as drinks or souvenirs. Roubles, USD and sometimes Euros, can be withdrawn from ATM machines, which are widely available in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Before leaving Australia, check with your bank to ensure that the card/s you are carrying will be accepted at the major ATMs. Please do not take travellers cheques, as they can be difficult to exchange.

Language

In Moscow and St. Petersburg you will find street and attraction signs in English - the metro stations also feature English signs. Outside of the major cities, English is not widely spoken and the majority of signs are in Cyrillic.

Our tours - an explanation

Tailor-made independent tours

Flexible, pre-booked arrangements including free time to explore at your own pace. You have your own English speaking guide, car and driver for sightseeing and hotel transfers. Stopovers, Russia a la Carte, St. Petersburg in Style, Golden Road to Samarkand are examples of independent tours that can be tailor-made to your own requirements.

Privately escorted tours

Suggested itineraries with free time with your own driver, car and English speaking guide or driver/guide as specified. Golden Ring Highlights, Discover Belarus, Wonders of Georgia, Discover Bulgaria (driver/guide), Romania in Depth.

Escorted tours

Fully escorted group tours on fixed dates with coach, driver and guide. Tour guide may be multi-lingual or English only speaking. Examples are Scandinavian & Russian Treasures, Scenic Ukraine & Poland and Polish & Baltic Jewels.

Small group tours

Small group tours offer a more intimate touring experience. With fewer travellers in the group you will have more opportunity to communicate on a one-to-one basis with your guide, and the logistics of moving the group around will take less time. Maximum group capacity varies and we have indicated this wherever applicable. Some small group tours have escorts throughout and some are locally escorted. Russian Highlights, Fjords & Royal Capitals of Scandinavia and Norway's Fjords & Glaciers are examples.

Hotel classifications

The hotel gradings in this brochure are based on local classifications, which vary from country to country and do not always coincide with other international

standards. Sometimes they may even be superior. Hotel rooms can be smaller than similar categories in Australia, double beds may not be available and A/C is becoming more prevalent. Where there are standard or renovated/business rooms, we recommend the latter. In most Russian cities a small local city registration fee may be payable on the spot, if it hasn't already been included in your room rate. It is up to the discretion of each hotel.

Travellers with special needs

Travellers with medical, physical or other special needs may find travel in these regions challenging. Hotels, cruise ships and tourist attractions may have many stairs with no lifts or ramps, and coaches, trains and cruise ships can be difficult to enter and leave. Toilet facilities can also be difficult to access. Travellers with dietary needs may be accommodated in the larger hotels in major cities. Simple requests like vegetarian meals can be accommodated on some tours and cruises.

Food/meals

Breakfast is included in your hotel each day. On escorted tours, lunches and dinners are included where indicated. On river cruises all meals are included. Most trains have a dining car. In the major cities, travellers have a wide choice of dining options ranging from local cafés to the finest restaurants offering international dishes as well as local delicacies.

Voltage

220/230 AC volts. Plugs are normally round two pin European type. Travellers should carry their own adaptors.

Australian Government travel information

We recommend that you refer to the websites of the Aust. and NZ Ministries of Foreign Affairs: www.smarttraveller.gov.au and www.safetravel.govt.nz. Here you will find general travel tips and information as well as specific Travel Advisories which provide information about the security environment in a particular country.

Visas

All travellers will require a tourist visa for Russia and the maximum duration of a tourist visa is 30 days.

Important note: If booking pre and post river cruise arrangements, the Russian Embassy/Consulate will only accept documentation from a maximum of two Russian tour operators for the entire stay in Russia, one of which will come from the cruise company. For visas for other countries in this brochure, please check with your travel advisor. Allow at least one month to secure each visa if obtaining them in Australia/New Zealand. Delays occur in consulates and urgent issue fees can run into hundreds of dollars. Airlines will automatically refuse boarding to passengers with invalid visas.





Booking conditions

Deposits

To secure your reservation, the following non-refundable deposits per person are required within 7 days of receipt of the confirmation invoice:

Hotels, stopovers, sightseeing, transportation 10% or \$100
whichever is greater

Tailor-made tours, tailor-made rail journeys, privately escorted & group tours 10%
River Cruises 25%
Volga Dream 20%

Escorted Rail Journeys by Private Train (Tsar's Gold, Grand Trans-Siberian Express & Legendary Silk Road) 25%
Golden Eagle Luxury Train: deposit varies dependent upon the tour and cabin type.

When more than one tour is booked, deposit and cancellation charges apply for each tour.

Balance of payment

Balance of payment is due 75 days prior to commencement of travel arrangements. Exceptions are:

Tailor made rail journeys, Volga Dream 90 days prior

Escorted Rail Journeys by Private Train 96 days prior
Golden Eagle Luxury Train.. 75 days prior
(Full payment due if booking made within 90 days of tour departure.)

**eNett code 300526
PaymentGate EET**

Credit card payments

Credit card payments incur a merchant fee of 1.4% for Visa and MasterCard and 2% for American Express.

Amendments

One amendment may be made without charge; subsequent amendments may incur a service charge of \$55 per amendment, includes documentation reissue.

Documentation

Documentation is generally issued approximately 3 weeks prior to departure.

Cancellations

All cancellations must be received in writing.

Hotels, stopovers, sightseeing, transportation, tailor-made tours, privately escorted and group tours
75 days or more loss of deposit
74-45 days 50%
44-0 days 100%

Once rail or ferry tickets have been issued by our suppliers, there is no refund if cancelled, this also applies to Norway in a Nutshell. Reservations of most rail sectors are not available until 90 days prior to travel.

River Cruises

75 days or more loss of deposit
74-65 days 50%
64-50 days 75%
49-0 100%

Volga Dream

90 days or more loss of deposit
89-31 days 50%
30-0 days 100%

Tailor-made Rail Journeys

90 days or more loss of deposit
89-45 days 50%
44-0 days 100%

Escorted Rail Journeys by Private Train

96 days or more loss of deposit
95-50 days 50%
49-0 days 100%

Golden Eagle Luxury Trains

75 days or more loss of deposit
74-0 days 100%

Additional charges

Minimum booking fee

A booking fee of \$55 will be charged in the following instances: bookings with a total value of less than \$500 and/or bookings consisting solely of 2 nights accommodation. Please note: bookings for transfers, sightseeing, rail or ferry tickets can only be actioned with a minimum of 2 nights accommodation and will attract relevant minimum booking fees. We regret that we cannot accept bookings that consist solely of accommodation for 1 night.

Late bookings

Bookings made within 21 days of travel incur a late booking fee of \$55 (Rail Journeys and Golden Road to Samarkand tour incur a late booking fee of \$55 for bookings within 4 weeks of travel). Full payment must be made before we request these arrangements. If unavailable - a full refund minus the late booking fee will be made.

Unused services

No refund can be considered in the following cases - non-acceptance of pre-booked tourist and transport services once journey has commenced, irrespective of the reason; where passengers are unable to travel due to invalid or mislaid travel documents (e.g. passport, visas); unused portion of services which are included in an all-in holiday price. Russian Travel Centre does not authorise any overseas supplier or hotel to promise refunds on our behalf.

Changes to itineraries

It may be necessary for reasons beyond our control to cancel or amend any of the arrangements for a particular itinerary, or to cancel the tour should insufficient numbers book. Should this occur you may transfer to another tour, book tailor-made arrangements or receive a full refund.

Insurance

It is strongly recommended that adequate travel insurance is taken out at the time of booking to cover you in the event of cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances.

Validity of prices/information January to December 2020

Prices in this brochure are correct at time of printing (Feb 2020). Due to circumstances beyond our control (major currency fluctuations, increased government charges, fuel and other surcharges) we may have to increase the total price of your travel arrangements prior to final payment. Clients can choose to make full payment at time of booking to avoid such possible increases. Acceptance of points stated herein is a condition of booking. Prices printed take

into consideration research, printing and communication costs and do not imply that similar product may not be booked on the spot at a lower price. Receipt of your payment signifies your acceptance of the costs of the services on your invoice.

Passports & Visas

It is the responsibility of the passenger to ensure they have a current passport, valid for 6 months from the date of concluding travel arrangements. It is the traveller's responsibility to obtain the necessary visas before departure. Failure to do so will incur normal cancellation penalties. Upon receipt of final payment, Russian Travel Centre provides Visa Support documentation free of charge. Visa Support will only be provided for arrangements that have been booked by Russian Travel Centre. Detailed information for obtaining Russian visas in Australia can be found on the websites - Consulate General of Russia in Sydney: www.sydney.mid.ru and Embassy of the Russian Federation in Canberra: australia.mid.ru.

Responsibility

Russian Travel Centre acts as an agent in booking arrangements for travel services. Technical problems with transportation, closure of airports, alteration or cancellation of scheduled services, or other events, are outside the control of Russian Travel Centre. Persons accepting these conditions agree that neither Russian Travel Centre nor any of its representatives shall be liable to any person taking its tours for any loss, injury, death or damage to such persons, or their belongings, or otherwise in connection with any accommodation, transportation or other services or resulting directly or indirectly from occurrences beyond its control incl. equipment breakdown, strikes, theft.

New Zealand bookings

All bookings made via the New Zealand GSA, the Innovative Travel Company Ltd. are fully subject to all New Zealand Terms of Trade as specified by the Innovative Travel Company Ltd. For further information please contact the Innovative Travel Company Ltd.

MS VOLGA DREAM

Luxury Cruise Tours of Russia

2020



Your Travel Agent

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