



HIGHLIGHTS OF ST PETERSBURG

Be charmed by the elegance of Russia's spellbinding cultural capital, home to sumptuous palaces, world class museums and a thriving contemporary arts scene.

Saint Petersburg was founded by the Peter the Great in 1703. The brilliant Tsar imagined a glorious new capital, one that would reflect both the political, cultural and artistic prowess of Imperial Russia, and his strong personal ties to Western Europe. Inspired by London, Vienna, Paris and Venice, Peter transformed a tract of swampland on the Lena River delta into what would become renowned as one of the world's most beautiful cities.

Saint Petersburg is like a living museum, and the city centre consists of one colossal masterpiece after another. At the same time, Saint Petersburg is a modern metropolis with a population of 5 million.

This in-depth tour is a fun and fascinating discovery of both the legacy of Imperialist Russia, and the city's vibrant new era in cultural expression, as young creatives flock to this city of poets, painters, composers and revolutionaries. In one week, you'll visit the incredible treasure troves of the State Hermitage Museum, cruise the lovely Lena River by night, drop in on the city's hip art districts, attend a Russian ballet or opera performance and get a glimpse into life in a provincial Russian village.

TOUR DURATION

7 days / 6 nights

GROUP SIZE

6 — 12 people

REGIONS VISITED

St.Petersburg

START CITY — END CITY

St.Petersburg — St.Petersburg

SEASON

Summer, May - September

TOUR CATEGORY

Culture

PRICE

From US \$2950*



* price p/person, based on 6 people in the group (twin-share) and will very less then 6 people.

Call us on 1300 742 374 (toll free from Australia) or +61-2-8221-88-59 from the rest of the world, or visit our website www.56thparallel.com



DAY 1: WELCOME TO SAINT PETERSBURG

Welcome to Saint Petersburg, the cultural capital of Russia. On arrival at the airport, you'll be met by a 56th Parallel representative and transferred to your hotel in the city. Spend the rest of the day relaxing and getting acquainted with the local area.

MEALS INCLUDED:

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DAY 2: ATMOSPHERE OF THE CITY



Discover the unmissable highlights of Saint Petersburg on a walking tour around the city centre. Stroll along Nevsky Prospekt, the city's grand old main street, cross the Anichkov Bridge, see the Kazan Cathedral and the Palace Square, and climb the 300 steps of St. Isaac's Cathedral to the base of its glittering gold dome. Take a break on Nevsky Prospekt to experience in the unique atmosphere of the city centre. For lunch, take your pick of one of the famous local restaurants - Teplo, Mansarda or Vodka Room No. 1. After lunch, we tour the grounds of the magnificent Peter and Paul Fortress on the banks of the Neva River. Visit the picturesque cathedral and enjoy a magnificent sunset view from the fortress walls.

MEALS INCLUDED:

B, —, —

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DAY 3: RUSSIAN VERSAILLES

Take a day trip to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Peterhof, the 'Russian Versailles'. Once the opulent summer resort of the Romanovs, today Peterhof is a huge open air museum and a testament to Peter the Great's contribution to the city's development. Marvel at the brilliance of the 18th century architects and artists who designed the Grand Palace, the Lower Gardens and some 150 stunning fountains on the palace grounds. In the evening, **as an option**, discover splendour of the city by night, with a cruise along the Lena River. If you're up for it, we invite you to attend a magical after-midnight viewing of one of the city's two magnificent bridges opening over the Neva River. Both locals and tourists gather each night to see the bridges opening, and you're sure to be serenaded by some of Saint Petersburg's talented street performers as you watch the spectacle unfold.

MEALS INCLUDED:

B, L, _.



DAY 4: CLASSIC ARCHITECTURE & CONTEMPORARY ART



Today we aim to gain a greater insight into the rich traditions of Russian culture, but also explore trends in contemporary art and design. Our day starts at the world famous State Hermitage Museum. There are some 3 million masterpieces on exhibit here, housed in six magnificent historic buildings, including the splendid Winter Palace. In the afternoon, depending on weather, we'll visit either the Loft Project ETAGI (a huge multifunctional creative space in the middle of the city, complete with contemporary art galleries, bookstores and a hip café), or New Holland Island, a former industrial area now being turned into a unique art space and mixed use facility. Take your time to relax before the evening. Eat dinner in the hotel restaurant and then, **as an option**, head out for a truly unforgettable experience – a night out in one of Saint Petersburg's celebrated classical theatres to see a performance of Russian ballet or opera.

MEALS INCLUDED:

B, L, _.

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DAY 5: WELCOME TO TSAR'S VILLAGE

Experience the extravagance of the Imperial rulers on an excursion to the suburban estates of the Romanov Tsars. Tsarskoe Selo (Tsar's village) is now part of the nearby town of Pushkin and is one of Saint Petersburg's finest attractions. Amid exquisite parks and gardens you'll find the baroque Catherine Palace, a dazzling testament to Catherine's love of luxury and royal excess. Envision Catherine strolling with her beloved dogs through acres of private gardens, where remarkable structures like the Marble Bridge, the Dutch Admiralty and the Creaking Pagoda were constructed for her amusement. We also explore the stately neoclassical Alexander Palace, whose tumultuous history paints a fascinating portrait of the Romanov family. Afterwards, you're free to explore the atmospheric streets and classy cafés of Pushkin, widely regarded as Saint Petersburg's most charming suburb. Today, **as an option**, our evening is spent at the World Heritage listed Kronshtadt, Saint Petersburg's main seaport, on Kotlin Island. You'll be given the opportunity to enjoy a gala feast inside the Fortress and take a boat trip around the island after dinner.

MEALS INCLUDED:

B, L, _.



DAY 6: RURAL RUSSIA

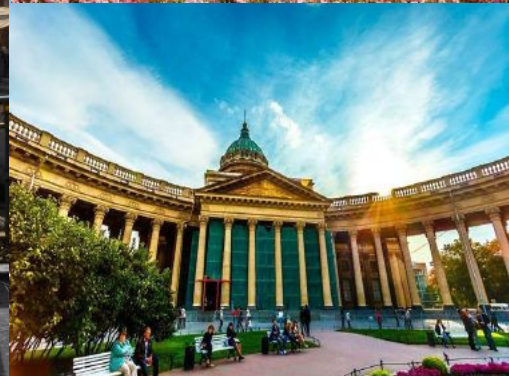
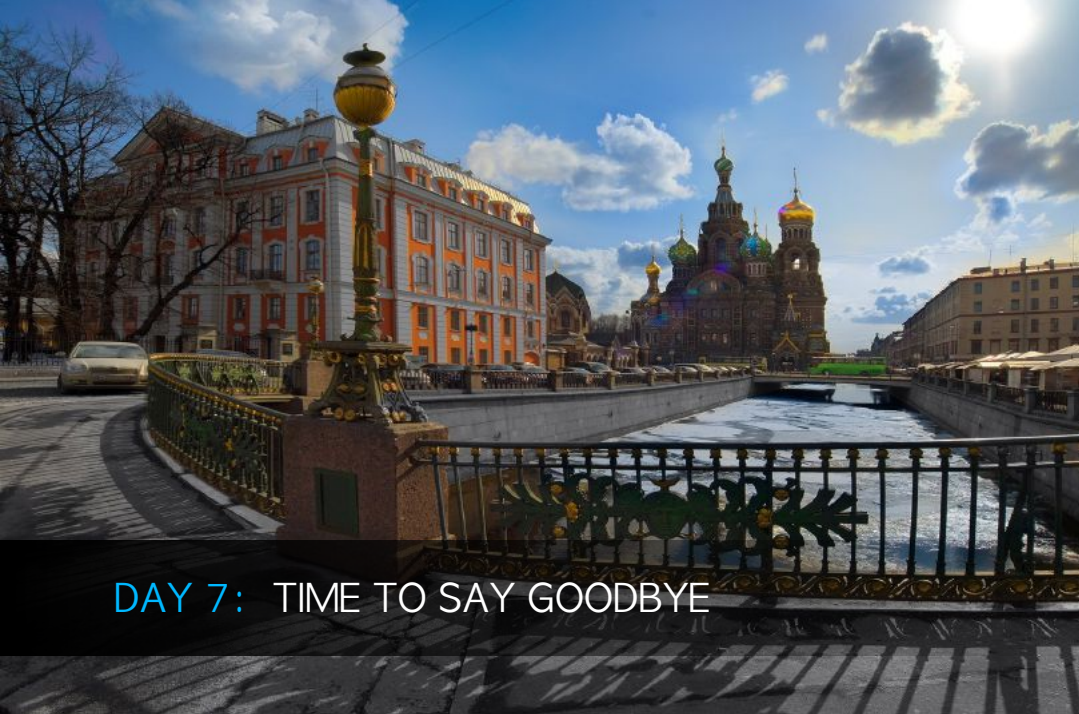
Get a glimpse of local life with a visit to the elaborate Russian Village. 30 minutes from Saint Petersburg, the Russian Village is an enchanting taste of rural Russia and the many aspects of daily living that have remained unchanged for centuries. Set on 8.5 hectares of picturesque park grounds, the complex features beautiful rustic architecture and a range of interactive experiences for visitors. You'll be able to choose from activities including a cooking workshop, a traditional tea ceremony, vodka tasting and horse riding around the village. Last but not least, enjoy a long, luxuriously relaxing soak in a banya, a traditional Russian steam bath and sauna.

MEALS INCLUDED:

B, L, _.

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DAY 7: TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

Our Saint Petersburg tour has come to an end. After breakfast, we check out from the hotel, transfer to the airport say farewell to this beautiful city, until next time!

MEALS INCLUDED:

B, _ , _

PLEASE NOTE:

This tour can be combined with a number of tours we have on offer to create the full impression of Russia, here are some examples:

- Moscow
- Lake Baikal
- Kamchatka

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ACCOMMODATION



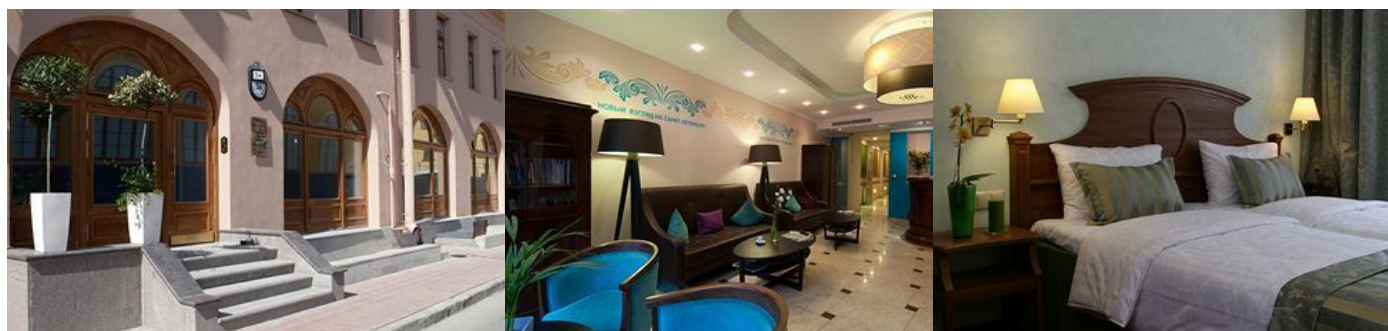
5* - W HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG

Conceptualized by award-winning architects Antonio Citterio Patricia Viel and Partners, W St. Petersburg is located in the center of the historical "Venice of the North" next to St. Isaac's Cathedral, a stones throw from the lavish Winter Palace with the famed Hermitage Museum and a short stroll from the spectacular Neva River. Retreat to our 137 guest rooms and suites, where bold décor by the famous Italian architect Antonio Citterio recalls a masterpiece of Russian craft and artistry - Fabergé egg and mingle with furnishings by B&B Italia, personal extras and vivid views of St. Isaac's Cathedral or our tranquil courtyard.



4* - THE COURTYARD ST. PETERSBURG VASILEVSKY HOTEL

The Courtyard St. Petersburg Vasilievsky hotel has a perfect location near the historic city centre of charming Saint Petersburg city, Russia. Whether you accommodate for business or choose the hotel for vacation the Courtyard St. Petersburg Vasilievsky will contribute to making your visit more memorable and comfortable. You will surely appreciate the location near the city center, its modern design, the view to the River Neva and free WiFi Internet in the public areas. The Courtyard St. Petersburg Vasilievsky hotel offers 214 spacious accommodations and suites with comfortable bedding, large work desk and WiFi Internet. Choose from our 8 upscale conference venues with broadband, state-of-the-art technology and professional services. After a hard day enjoy an aperitif in our Lobby Bar or taste dishes from Eastern France and Russia in Pierrot Restaurant.



3* - THREE MOSTA BOUTIQUE HOTEL

Boutique hotel '3mostA' unifies superb location - just next to the world famous Hermitage, - impeccable and stylish atmosphere and amiable services, which help you to discover St.Petersburg in truly unique and personal manner. The hotel's name, 3mostA ('3 bridges' in Russian), refers to three bridges located in the direct vicinity of the hotel - Teatralnyi, Malo-Konushennyi and Peshekhodnyi - crossing perpendicular over Griboedova Canal and Moyka River and forming a unique architectural ensemble.

PLEASE NOTE:

The accommodation included in the price is the Three Mosta Boutique hotel, for other hotels, the price will be different.

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INCLUSIONS

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Group arrival transfer
- Transport on tour
- 3* hotel accommodation
- Meals as specified
- Experiences detailed in the itinerary:
 - walking tour along the city center
 - tour to Peterhof
 - tour to Hermitage
 - tour in Etagi or New Holland
 - tour to Tsarskoye Selo
 - tour to Kronstadt
 - Russian village experience
 - cooking workshop
 - Russian banya experience
- Entry fees to some attractions
- English speaking guide
- Russian visa support letter

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Visa fees
- individual transfers
- Optional experiences:
 - «city by night» tour + night cruise
 - visit to Ballet and Opera theatre + tickets
 - Kronstadt excursion with dinner

SUMMARY ACCOMMODATION, TRANSPORT, MEALS

TRANSPORT

- Private car

ACCOMMODATION

- 6 nights at the «Pushka INN» hotel in St.Petersburg

MEALS

- 6 breakfasts
- 5 lunches
- 0 dinners

WHAT TO KNOW

VISAS AND PERMITS

All foreigners require a valid Russian visa to visit Russia for tourist purposes. For most travelers, a tourist visa (single or double entry and valid for a maximum of 30 days from date of entry) is sufficient.

Getting a Russian visa involves 3 steps: Invitation, Application and Registration.

The simplest, most comprehensive online guide to **GETTING A RUSSIAN VISA IS HERE:** <http://www.56thparallel.com/russian-visa-application/>

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This page will talk you through the process step-by-step, and you'll be able to purchase your Invitation letter and download the Russian visa application form from here. You'll need to deliver your invitation letter, visa application form, passport (with six months or more validity) and two passport-sized photos sized (3.5*4.5) mm to your nearest Russian consulate, either by post or in person.

INSURANCE

You must have medical travel insurance to travel with 56th Parallel. You'll need to supply details of your travel insurance policy to your tour group leader before embarking on your Russian adventure. It's extremely important that your chosen policy covers all aspects of the trip you're undertaking. We recommend contacting your insurance provider for advice if you're not sure which policy to take out.

LOCAL TOUR LEADERS

56th Parallel employ local Russian tour leaders, guides and drivers. This way, we're able to provide much-needed jobs within Russia's fledgling tourism industry, while our guests benefit from our guides' intimate knowledge of the regions we visit. All our key staff are English speaking, and we absolutely encourage you to engage them with your questions and cultural comparisons. A great rapport with your tour leader goes a long way to making your holiday experience truly memorable.

TIPPING

Tipping of guides, drivers and hotel/restaurant staff is up to your discretion. While it's not considered compulsory in Russia, a tip of 5-10% is reasonable if you're happy with the service provided. Tipping is common in restaurants and makes up a significant part of the take-home pay for wait staff.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

At 56th Parallel we are firm believers in sustainable tourism and responsible travel.

Our tours and tour leaders are committed to an environmentally and culturally sensitive approach to visiting wilderness areas and local communities. Please visit our Sustainable Tourism page (<http://www.56thparallel.com/how-we-travel-russia/sustainable-tourism/>) for more information.

ABOUT THIS INFORMATION

All information here is provided in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, our itineraries and accommodation sometimes have to be adjusted according to booking availabilities, weather conditions and other factors. We do our best to keep all the information on our website and information kits up-to-date, but please be aware that things can change at the last minute. We encourage you to contact our customer service team if there's anything you need to be sure of – we're always happy to help!