16 DAY BUCKET LIST TOUR

JEWELS OF RUSSIA

$5499

ST PETERSBURG • MOSCOW • SERGIYEV POSAD • KOSTROMA • VLADIMIR • SUZDAL

THE OFFER

From historic cities to charming villages, glittering palaces to walled fortresses, Russia is a one-of-a-kind destination just waiting to be explored. Discover the jewels of this fascinating country with an incredible 16 day cultural journey through St. Petersburg, Moscow, and the Golden Ring.

See world famous Russian landmarks including the Kremlin, Red Square, Peterhof Palace, Kazan Cathedral, Kolomenskoye Estate, and Victory Park. Come face-to-face with exquisite national treasures at the Hermitage Museum, founded by Catherine the Great in 1754. Witness the ornate rooms of marble and gold at the Winter Palace, the former residence of the Russian Royal family, plus tour the spectacular Moscow Metro train network. Travel to the ancient towns of the Golden Ring which feature traditional Russian Orthodox architecture including kremlins, monasteries, cathedral and churches. Visit gorgeous townships full of UNESCO listed sights including Yaroslavi, Suzdal and Vladimir. Includes return flights, 13 nights hotel accommodation, 17 meals including 4 traditional lunches, English speaking tour leader and local guides, and so much more.

*Please note: all information provided in this brochure is subject to both change and availability. Prior to purchase please check the current live deal at www.tripadeal.com.au or contact our customer service team on 1300 00 TRIP (8747) for the most up-to-date information. If you have already purchased this deal, the terms and conditions on your Travel Voucher apply and take precedence over the information in this brochure.
THE ITINERARY

Day 1 Australia - St Petersburg, Russia
Today depart from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth for St Petersburg, Russia! Fly with award winning airlines such as Etihad Airways, Emirates, British Airways, Swiss Airways or Singapore Airlines to name a few (subject to availability).
Meals included: In-Flight

Day 2 Welcome to St Petersburg
Upon arrival be met by a representative and transferred to the hotel.
Park Inn Nevsky, St Petersburg
Meals included: None

Day 3 St Petersburg City Tour
This morning enjoy a 3 hour sightseeing tour with a local guide to give you a brief but bright impression of St Petersburg. During the tour, the bus will take you to see the main monuments of the city, you will hear amazing stories and have the chance to take pictures of the main historical and architectural sites like Nevsky prospect, the Kazan Cathedral, the Winter Palace, Vasiievsky Island, St. Isaac Cathedral, Peter and Paul Fortress, the Senate Square and the Palace Square. This afternoon you will visit the Peter & Paul Fortress (entrance included). Today the Peter and Paul fortress is home to several museums, which exhibit the splendid history of St Petersburg's foundation and growth. Here you may visit main museums like the Peter and Paul Cathedral – the tallest building in the city centre and the burial place of the Russian Emperors – the Grand Ducan Mausoleum, and the Museum of history of St Petersburg. Here you may also encounter more modest museums and temporary exhibitions like the Museum of Miniatures, Museum of Torture, etc. The fortress also used to be a political prison as you may see during a visit. You may stroll on the fortress walls and witness the famous traditional midday cannon shot. Afterwards head to the Hermitage Museum (main building entrance included). It is hard to imagine a trip to St Petersburg without visiting one of the worlds most famous museums – the State Hermitage (main building entrance included). Its priceless collection occupies 5 historical buildings of which the Winter Palace – the former residence of the Russian Royal family – is the most remarkable. Its rooms, decorated with marble and gold provide a fine background for the treasures of the Hermitage. You might be surprised to know that the collection of this unique museum contains over 3 million exhibits including the paintings of Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael and other famous artists; however the collections of the Egyptian, Oriental and Ancient Greek art should not be missed as well. You will be overwhelmed by the beauty of the museum and will never forget this magnificent and legendary place.
Park Inn Nevsky, St Petersburg
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4 St Petersburg – Peterhof Palace
After breakfast you will visit the Peterhof Palace with a local guide (palace and park entrance included). The palace is located on the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland, 34kms from St Petersburg. The spectacular Peterhof attracts thousands of visitors with its parks, palaces and many fountains. Among the suburban parks, Peterhof is probably the most famous for its fountains and is thus frequently compared to Versailles. ‘The Samson’ of the Grand Cascade is the most powerful and magnificent of the fountains of Peterhof and thus has been made a symbol of the park. As a former residence of the Emperors, Peterhof is also the home of several palaces with the Grand Palace as its main landmark. It was destroyed and then carefully restored as to exhibit the splendour of the royal way of life.
Park Inn Nevsky, St Petersburg
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5 St Petersburg - Moscow
This morning you will be transferred to St Petersburg train station for your journey to Moscow. Relax on board the high speed Sapsan train (approx. 3.5 hour journey). Upon arrival you will be transferred to the hotel. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure in Russia's capital city.
Best Western Plus Vega Hotel & Convention Centre, Moscow
Meals included: Breakfast

BUY ONLINE: www.tripadeal.com.au
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Offer available for a limited time or until sold out. TRIP A DEAL PTY LTD: 50149240433
Day 6 Moscow City Tour
Today enjoy a locally guided city tour of Moscow. Moscow represents a unique set of old architecture masterpieces and modern high tech buildings. See the main landmarks, such as Red Square, the Kremlin (entrance included), the Victory Park and much more! The Kremlin, with its red brick walls and 20 towers holding their own unique history was first constructed in 1156 as a wooden fortress by the order of Grand Duke Yuri Dolgoruky and has been rebuilt several times. The current appearance was formed in 1495 by the best architects of Russia and Italy. Today the Kremlin is the residence of the Russian President and the main symbol of the country, revered by all of its citizens.

Best Western Plus Vega Hotel & Convention Centre, Moscow
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7 Moscow Tour
After breakfast, with your local guide enjoy a Metro Tour (entrance included). If you have ever wondered why the Moscow metro is considered one the most beautiful in the world, this tour is made for you. A vast museum, with crazy labyrinths of stations. The experienced guide will give you a full insight into the history and architecture of the Moscow metro. Afterwards you will visit the Tretyakov Gallery (entrance included). The Gallery was founded in 1856 by the merchant Tretyakov to display the works of Russian artists. Today everyone is able to visit the richest collection of Russian painters and sculptors from the 18th and 19th centuries like Brullov, Kiprensky, Aivazovsky, Ivanov or Repin, as well as the finest collection of Russian icons. You will also visit Novodevichy Convent (entrance included). The Novodevichy Convent is an ensemble of fortified monasteries for noble women built between the 16th and 17th centuries. Its interior decorations, frescoes, icons and tapestries have been preserved in a perfect state, making the Novodevichy Convent one of the most beautiful monasteries of Russia.

Best Western Plus Vega Hotel & Convention Centre, Moscow
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8 Moscow - Kolomenskoye
After breakfast visit Kolomenskoye with a local guide (entrance included). The Kolomenskoye Estate is the former residence of Moscow dukes and Russian tsars. It is situated on the picturesque high bank of the Moskva River. In a calm natural environment, you can enjoy the stunning views of the river. This museum reserve comprises of the wonderful Church of the Ascension, the restored wooden luxurious country residence of the Tsar's as well as several monuments of the 16th and 17th centuries whose construction had a huge influence on Russian architecture. In 1994 Kolomenskoye entered the UNESCO World Heritage List and is now a favourite venue for festivals and shows featuring scenes from Russian history. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

Best Western Plus Vega Hotel & Convention Centre, Moscow
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 9 Moscow - Sergiyev Posad (70km)
Depart Moscow and travel to Sergiyev Posad, where you will start your trip through the Golden Ring. A ring of cities northeast of Moscow, small historical towns, ancient onion-domed churches, gingerbread cottages and large unspoilt countryside. Sergiyev Posad is the city and administrative centre of Moscow's Sergiyev-Posadsky District. Blue and gold cupolas offset by snow-white walls; the colour scheme of Sergiyev Posad's monastery is a text book example of Russia's perception of divinity. Relax for the rest of the day in the historical town.

Posadsky Hotel, Sergiev Posad
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 10 Sergiyev Posad – Yaroslavl (approx. 190km day)
This morning enjoy a locally guided tour of Sergiyev Posad, visit the Trinity Cathedral (entrance included), the town's main landmark, glimpse icons painted by Andrei Rublev and Daniel Chorny. Enjoy lunch in a traditional restaurant. In the afternoon continue your journey to Yaroslavl.

Ring Premier Hotel, Yaroslavl
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch
Day 11 Yaroslavl – Kostroma (approx. 85km day)
Today begins with a city tour of Yaroslavl with a local guide, a city with rich history of more than 1000 years. It started with a small wooden fortress on a territory belonging to Rostov in the early 12th century. After several fires, the original wooden town was totally rebuilt in stone, and by the 16th century Yaroslavl became the second largest city in Russia. These treasures of the 16th century are nowadays forming the heart of the historical centre of the city, which is part of the UNESCO Heritage. During the tour, you will see all the landmarks representing the development of Russian architecture from the 16th to 18th centuries: Annunciation Cathedral, the Monastery of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, Holy Gate, Church of Elijah the Prophet and many others. After lunch at a typical Russian restaurant transfer to Kostroma.
Hotel Golden Ring, Kostroma
Meals included: Breakfast; Lunch

Day 12 Kostroma - Suzdal (approx. 185km day)
This morning enjoy a locally guided city tour of Kostroma, a majestic old town, one of the major spots on the Golden Ring route. See the preserved medieval architecture in the historical centre of the town, hear enchanting legends and stories about every sight in town, the stunning landscapes and local colour certainly will captivate you. During the tour, you will see Bogoyavlensky Cathedral, Church of Voskresenye-na-Dobre, Ipatyevsky Monastery and many other sights. After lunch, travel to Suzdal, well known for its Cathedral of the Nativity with gold starred domes and 13th century frescoes.
Hotel Sokol, Suzdal
Meals included: Breakfast; Lunch

Day 13 Suzdal - Vladimir (approx. 40km day)
This morning enjoy a locally guided tour of Suzdal. See picturesque green lanes, chicken and cows grazing freely near the Kremlin and monasteries, along with a preserved atmosphere of the historical centre give Suzdal a peaceful and inviting appearance. Suzdal used to be an important religious centre of Russia during the 18th and 19th centuries. There you may admire the diverse beauty of its churches and cathedrals – each of them is a real masterpiece of Russian church architecture. You will see the Kremlin (entrance included), Alexandrovsky and Rizopolozhensky monasteries, Iliinskaya Church, Cathedral of the Nativity, museum of wooden architecture, ramparts and much more. After a traditional lunch transfer in the afternoon to Vladimir, the last town of the Golden Ring.
Voznesenskaya Sloboda, Vladimir
Meals included: Breakfast; Lunch

Day 14 Vladimir – Moscow (approx. 190km day)
Today take a guided tour of the city of Vladimir with a local guide, one of the oldest in Russia. Although the date of its foundation is still disputed by historians (either 990 or 1108), no one doubts its significant role in Russian history. During more than two centuries (from 1157 to the mid-1300s), Vladimir was a capital of ancient Russia. Among its main attractions, the city boasts three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Golden Gates, Vladimir's unofficial symbol, and the Assumption and St. Demetrius Cathedrals which you will have a chance to see during your city tour. Afterwards transfer back to Moscow.
Best Western Plus Vega Hotel & Convention Centre, Moscow
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 15 Moscow - Australia
Enjoy your last breakfast in Moscow before transferring to the airport for your return flight back to Australia after one trip-of-a-lifetime! Please note: if your flight departs early, breakfast will be arranged for pick up from the hotel reception the night before.
Meals included: Breakfast; In-Flight

Day 16 Arrive in Australia
Please note, some flights may arrive in Australia +1 day later
TOUR INCLUSIONS

HIGHLIGHTS
Discover the highlights of Russia’s Golden Ring
Visit St Petersburg, Moscow, Sergiyev Posad, Yaroslavl, Kostroma, Suzdal & Vladimir
See the Kazan Cathedral, Winter Palace and more on a tour of St Petersburg
Visit the Peter and Paul Fortress home to several museums
Explore the Hermitage museum, one of the largest and oldest museums in the world
Enjoy the many magnificent fountains of Peterhof Palace
See Red Square & Victory Park on a Moscow city tour
Visit Moscow’s Kremlin, the symbol of Russia
Explore the Metro, Tretyakov Gallery & Novodevichy Convent in Moscow
Visit Kolomenskoye, the former residence of Moscow dukes and Russian tsars
Enjoy the picturesque landscapes traveling through the Golden Ring villages
See the Trinity Cathedral in Sergiyev Posad
Explore Yaroslavl on a guided city tour
Enjoy a guided tour of historical Kostroma
Visit the famous Kremlin in Suzdal
Explore Vladimir an ancient Russian capital

TOUR ESSENTIALS
English speaking tour leader and local guides
Airline taxes and surcharges
Parking, check points and local taxes

TRANSPORT
Relax on board the high speed Sapsan train from St Petersburg to Moscow (2nd class ticket)
Transportation by A/C private vehicle

TRANSFERS
Return airport transfers

FLIGHTS
Return international flights (economy class) departing SYD/MEL/BNE/ADL/PER

ACCOMMODATION
13 nights hotel accommodation

DINING
Enjoy 17 meals including 4 traditional lunches at typical Russian restaurants
**FLIGHTS**

**Full Service Airline(s) Used**
Lufthansa, Swiss Airways, Austrian Airlines, Finnair, Singapore Airlines, Qatar Airways, Air France, KLM, Alitalia, Virgin Australia, Korean Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Etihad Airways, Emirates, British Airways, Siberia Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Thai Airways, Malaysian Airlines, China Southern Airlines plus any codeshare partners (subject to availability)

**Arrive early**
Not available

**Stay behind in Moscow**
$200 per person, subject to availability
Please note:
- This fee does not include extra nights accommodation, meals or airport transfers
- No flight booking changes or cancellations permitted after air tickets have been issued
- Flight changes are subject to availability at the time of booking

**Stopover Packages**
Twin share: $450 per person/each way
Solo Traveller: $700 each way

**Locations:**
- *Singapore*
  - Includes:
    - 2 Nights in 4 star accommodation
    - Daily breakfast
    - Return airport transfers

Please note: An outbound and inbound stopover may be chosen; however the stopover location must be the same each way, due to the airline used.
- Stopover packages are subject to availability

**Flight Class Upgrades**
- Premium Economy: Starting from $2899* per person
- Business Class: Buy now for $6999 per person

Please note:
- *Starting from quotes will be processed and returned for your consideration
- All Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are subject to availability (if we are not able to fulfill your business class request the upgrade cost will be refunded)
- On any upgrade purchase, short haul flights and domestic flight sectors are not guaranteed in a Premium or Business cabin; subject to aircraft configuration

**ACCOMMODATION**

**Accommodation Used**
3-4 Star (self-rated)
- St Petersburg: Park Inn Nevsky
- Moscow: Best Western Plus Vega Hotel & Convention Centre
- Sergiev Posad: Posadsky Hotel
- Yaroslavl: Ring Premier Hotel
- Kostroma: Hotel Golden Ring
- Suzdal: Hotel Sokol
- Vladimir: Voznesenskaya Sloboda

*Please note: rooms offered are based on a lead-in room type, and are subject to availability based on seasonality. Properties will be confirmed, no later than two weeks prior to travel.

**Extra Nights (Post Tour only)**
- Moscow: $280 per room including breakfast

Please note: extra nights are subject to availability until the time of booking. Airport transfers are not included if you wish to arrive early or stay behind

**Maximum Room Capacity**
3 people (subject to availability)

**Child Policy**
- No child discounts. Full price applies for all children travelling with their parents
- Strictly valid for Children/infants 10 years old and over

Please note: Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18 years old and over to travel. No unaccompanied minors allowed

**Triple Share**
No discounts apply for 3rd person travelling. Full price applies, subject to availability

**Bedding Configuration**
Double or Twin Bedding (subject to availability)

**Adjoining Rooms (Interconnecting Rooms)**
Subject to availability and at the hotels
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

discretion. Please enquire on booking if you require this option

GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Minimum group size 15, maximum group size 50 per vehicle

EXCLUSIONS
- Visa fees and requirements (A tourist visa for Russia is a strict requirement if travelling on an Australian passport)
- Meals/beverages not stated in the itinerary
- Recommended gratuities/tipping: €5 per person/day payable on tour
- Optional activities/tours
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance (Mandatory)

*** Please Note: A comprehensive travel Insurance policy must be organised BEFORE all details can be finalised with TripADeal

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TOUR GUIDE vs TOUR LEADER

Tour Guide:
Often locals with intimate knowledge of an area, its culture, and history. Their role entails providing commentary, routing the tour, and seeing that people have a good time. They are a licensed, qualified expert who supplies specific information on history, art, architecture and culture of the city/village/attraction in which he or she is guiding the tour. The guide meets the group at the required place and leaves the group at the end of the tour, they do not travel with the group.

Tour Leader:
An experienced person tasked with ensuring the smooth operation of tours, as well as providing practical support to passengers throughout the whole trip. Their role primarily includes assisting with accommodation, transportation between locations, and communication with tour guides in each stop. A tour leader may provide general guidance around a city or village, and offer information on the place visited on the bus, however they are not required to have specific knowledge on art, architecture, or history. They are not allowed to provide a guided tour or commentary of a city/village/attraction once there and if caught doing so, can be fined.

Please note: Tour leaders/guides are not a standard inclusion in all TripADeal travel offers. Tour leaders/guides will only be made available when particularly required to enhance the experience of the destination featured.

COACH TOUR:

Meals:
Some meals are included in the tour, for all other meals; lunches and dinners the tour leader (when available) will offer assistance with reservations, suggestions and directions to local restaurants. You can also enquire about any allergies and food and if necessary advise meals to be prepared with any medication you require.

Gratuities (tips) are not included in the tour price for services of the tour leader and driver throughout the tour. The recommended tip for the tour leader and driver is €5 per person per day, which will be collected whilst on tour.

Fitness Level Required / Mobility:
Our vehicles are not equipped with wheelchair access, so unfortunately our tours are currently not suitable for wheelchair users and those less mobile. Please note, a standard level of fitness will be required. If you have any concerns please consult your healthcare provider prior to purchase/travel.

Luggage:
You will be responsible for all your personal belongings whilst on the tour. With regards to luggage, you must carry your own luggage from the coach to the hotel room and back to the coach. The driver will assist with the uploading and offloading of their luggage from the coach.

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SCHEDULE OF FEES

Voluntary Changes
This includes booking changes requested by you, including but not limited to those changes requiring airline ticket or a Purchase Confirmation reissue.

- 1st Change - $100.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/ cruise company/ other travel provider.
- 2nd Change - $150.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/ cruise company/ other travel provider.
- Subsequent changes - $250.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/ cruise company/ other travel provider.
- Changes within 30 days of departure - $350.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/ cruise company/ other travel provider.
- Changes within 14 days of departure - $500.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/ cruise company/ other travel provider.

INSURANCE

TripADeal is proud to offer a range of travel insurance products in partnership with My Travel Insurance.

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