



RUSSIAN RHAPSODY



*Educational
Tours*

→ *Discover the Global Classroom*

9 or 12 DAYS

Russian Rhapsody

Russia Extension to Sweden



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.



Admire the intricately designed details of Russia's art forms from its onion-domed architecture to its handcrafted nesting dolls.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 6 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (8 with extension); plus 1 night couchette accommodations
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time bilingual EF Tour Director
- Services of a Russian guide
- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides:
 - Moscow • St. Petersburg
- 2 EF walking tours: Moscow • St. Petersburg
- 5 visits to special attractions:
 - Kremlin (with cathedral) • Armory Palace Museum
 - Hermitage/Winter Palace • Peter and Paul Fortress
 - St. Petersburg History Museum

OPTIONAL:

Sergiev Posad • Petrodvorets

WITH EXTENSION: All of the above PLUS:

- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides:
 - Tallinn • Helsinki
- 1 EF walking tour: Helsinki
- 1 visits to special attractions:
 - TempPELLIAUKO Church

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Russia • Relax as you fly across the Atlantic.

Day 2 Moscow

Arrival in Moscow • Touch down in Moscow, the Russian capital. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your Russian guide and your bilingual EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

Day 3 Moscow

Guided sightseeing of Moscow • A local guide introduces you to Moscow, beginning with a visit to the city's nucleus: Red Square. The square is large enough to accommodate more than 2 million people. Then marvel at the colorful unmatching cupolas of St. Basil's Cathedral. According to legend, Ivan the Terrible took drastic measures to ensure that the architect would never build anything more beautiful.

Visit to the Kremlin • You'll also enjoy a visit to the Kremlin. At one time, all of Moscow was contained within its 15th-century walls. Discover a vast "hidden" world of palaces, museums and cathedrals. Walk across the czarist Square of Cathedrals. Each cathedral had a particular purpose: one for marrying, one for burying and a third for coronations. You also can see the world's largest bell, weighing more than 200 tons. Its only flaw? It never worked.

Evening performance • Tonight, you'll witness a spectacular performance by either a Russian folklore troupe or one of the country's world-class circuses! (Depending upon availability, the performance may take place in St. Petersburg.)

Day 4 Moscow

Optional excursion to Sergiev Posad • Opt to join us on an excursion to Sergiev Posad, about an hour from Moscow. Visit the Trinity Monastery of St. Sergius, a stunning fortress monastery that is the center of Russian Orthodoxy and an important pilgrimage site in the country. You will also see the Cathedral of the Assumption, modeled after the Kremlin in Moscow and the Refectory Church of St. Sergius. The town is also famous for its *matryoshka* dolls, or Russian nesting dolls, and you will visit the toy factory that makes them.

Day 5 Moscow • Night Train

Guided visit to the Armory Palace Museum • A local guide will acquaint you with the Armory Palace, the oldest and most richly furnished museum of the Kremlin. Exhibits include gold and silver jewelry from the past millennium, Russian armor and the breathtakingly ornate Fabergé eggs.

Night train to St. Petersburg • After enjoying a free afternoon for your own explorations, board a night train bound for St. Petersburg.

Day 6 St. Petersburg

Arrival in St. Petersburg • Arrive in St. Petersburg, Russia's Window on the West and cradle of the 1917 Revolution. The city was formerly known as Leningrad after the Soviet Union's first premier.

Guided sightseeing of St. Petersburg • Peter the Great transformed St. Petersburg into a showplace of architecture and landscaping; encounter the magnificent results on your guided tour. Visit the Winter Palace, once the residence of Catherine the Great and where the



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Russian monarchy was finally overthrown in 1917. The Winter Palace now is part of the vast Hermitage, where the czars' spectacular art collection is on display.

Visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress • You'll also visit the Peter and Paul Fortress, located on a small island on the Neva River. Trotsky, Gorky and Dostoevsky all were imprisoned here. Peter the Great built this dungeon, and one of the first prisoners was his son, who was put to death here in 1718. The fortress has since become the final resting place of all the czars except Peter II.

Day 7 St. Petersburg

EF walking tour of St. Petersburg • Our EF walking tour takes you down Nevsky Prospekt, one of St. Petersburg's oldest streets. View a monument to Alexander Pushkin, Russia's beloved poet, and see where Rasputin was murdered.

Visit to the St. Petersburg Museum of History • Discover Russia's rich cultural heritage at this museum in the Rumyantsev Mansion dedicated to preserving the history of St. Petersburg. A main focus of the museum is the time Russians refer to as the Blockade, the 900 days of bombing and starvation between September 1941 and January 1944, when German forces surrounded Leningrad. There is an impressive repository of items from that time, as well as displays of painting, graphics and posters created by artists during the blockade.

Day 8 St. Petersburg

Optional excursion to Petrodvorets • This seasonal option takes you to the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland to visit Peter the Great's Petrodvorets, summer residence of the czars. (From October through May, you'll instead travel to Pushkin to visit Pushkin Palace or the beautiful castle of Pavlovsk, former home of Catherine the Great's son.)

Day 9 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

Day 9 St. Petersburg • Tallinn

Transfer to Helsinki via Tallin • Head to Tallin this morning, capital of Estonia, one of the three Baltic States. Tallin lies on the northern coast of Estonia, along the Gulf of Finland, and is an important industrial, political and cultural center, and seaport.

Guided sightseeing of Tallin • Today you will tour through Tallinn's two old towns, (Lower Town and Toompea) which are both easily explored on foot. In Toompea, you will explore the walls and various bastions of Castrum

Danorum, the Russian Orthodox Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (built during the Russian Empire, the site formerly housed a statue of Martin Luther) and the Lutheran Cathedral (Toomkirik). Then continue on to the Lower Town, one of the best preserved old towns in Europe, where you will tour Raekoja plats (Town Hall square), the town walls and towers (notably "Fat Margaret" and "Kiek in de K ok") and St Olaf church tower. Then visit Kadriorg, former palace of Peter the Great, which now houses the Art Museum of Estonia and the presidential residence. Finally, stop at Pirita, a coastal district known for its marina that was built for the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Day 10 Tallinn • Helsinki

Transfer by ferry to Helsinki • Cross the Gulf of Finland as you travel via ferry to Helsinki, Finland's capital. Geographically sandwiched between Sweden and Russia, the country was ruled by one or the other until after the Russian Revolution in 1917.

EF walking tour of Helsinki • Meet in Senate Square, the heart of Helsinki, for our EF walking tour. Pass the Government House and the grand columns of Helsinki University. Then stroll along Alexanterinkatu to the Russian Orthodox Uspenski Cathedral. Conclude your stroll at the Esplanade, an oasis of greenery surrounded by caf es, bakeries and boutiques.

Day 11 Helsinki

Guided sightseeing of Helsinki • Begin your guided sightseeing in the heart of Finland's modern capital. Pass the red granite Parliament, the green-domed cathedral dominating Helsinki's skyline, and the 1952 Olympic Stadium. You'll also see a monument to composer Jean Sibelius and the harborside fish and fruit market. Then continue on for a visit to the Temppeliaukio Church. An excellent example of modern Finnish architecture, the church is carved into the side of a rocky bluff. During free time, you may wish to look for reindeer at the Helsinki Zoo.

Day 12 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with the transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

Become a patron of the Russian arts.



Discover the Global Classroom



Educational Tours