

K982 ~ THE BEST OF RUSSIA, BALTIC STATES & WARSAW

14 days from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius and Warsaw

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- * Centrally located 4-star hotels
- * Buffet breakfast daily
- * 2 lunches and 7 dinners (coffee or tea included)
- * Airport transfers
- * Touring by modern air-conditioned motor-coach
- * High speed train from Moscow to St. Petersburg
- * Professional English Speaking Tour Director throughout
- * Licensed Local Guides
- * Entrance fees included where indicated in bold letters
- * Luggage handling at hotels
- * Complimentary whispers with sightseeing tours
- * Service charges and hotel taxes

SIGHTSEEING TOURS INCLUDED:

- * Moscow
- * Tallinn
- * Vilnius
- * St. Petersburg
- * Riga
- * Warsaw

HOTELS:

- * **Moscow:** Marriott Grand (SF)
- * **St. Petersburg:** Ambassador (F)
- * **Tallinn:** Park Inn Radisson Meriton (F)
- * **Riga:** Radisson Blu Latvija (SF)
- * **Vilnius:** Novotel (F)
- * **Warsaw:** Mercure Grand (SF)

ITINERARY:

Day 1, arrive Moscow, Friday

Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Tonight, gather with your traveling companions for a Welcome Dinner. **(D)**

Day 2, in Moscow, Saturday

Moscow, one of the largest cities in the world, is the symbolic heart and soul of the country. Your sightseeing tour begins at Red Square, dominated by colorful St. Basil's Cathedral and by the massive red walls of the **Kremlin**. Visit the **Armory Museum**, with its impressive collection of Tsarist, Russian, and foreign jewelry, armor, and other



artifacts. Then walk by Moscow University. Continue with a drive along the wide boulevards and a stroll through GUM, Russia's largest department store. Continue, on the north bank of the River Moskva, passing by baroque Novodevichy convent; ending the tour at the popular Arbat shopping district. The rest of the day is at leisure. **(B)**

Day 3, in Moscow Sunday

Today we travel 75 km North of Moscow, to a small town of Sergiev Posad, former Zagorsk – founded in the 14th century and renowned as a center of ancient Russian art and architecture. For centuries it served as a place of pilgrimage and the religious capital of Russia. Within the old walled city admire the fairy-tale golden and blue domes of the **Holy Trinity St. Sergius Lavra**, one of the most beautiful of all monasteries. After lunch, return to Moscow, the rest of the day at leisure. This evening take an *Optional tour Moscow by night & Subway*, to see the metro stations which Stalin called "Palaces for the People." **(B, L)**

Day 4, Moscow to St. Petersburg, Monday

Time at leisure in Moscow, before transfer to railway station for our four hours high speed Sapsan **train** ride to St. Petersburg. Upon arrival at the St. Petersburg train station, transfer to your hotel. Dinner at hotel. Join for an optional Russian Folklore evening. **(B, D)**

Day 5, in St. Petersburg, Tuesday

There are not many cities in the world that can match the grace of St. Petersburg. When Peter the Great founded the city in 1703, he hired Europe's best architects, craftsmen, and artists to build and decorate it. Spread over 100 islands and linked by over 600 bridges, it is often referred to as the "Venice of the North." Today the main sites to be visited on the tour are Palace Square with the Winter Palace, Senate Square with the monument to Russian Emperor Peter the Great, the founder of the city, St. Isaac's Square with **St. Isaac's Cathedral**, Smolny Cathedral, Cruiser Aurora, Field of Mars, and Nevsky Prospect. Visit the **Peter and Paul Fortress**, built in 1703 to protect the city from enemy attacks. Visit Peter and Paul Cathedral, which towers in the center of the fortress served as the burial place for Russian Emperors from Peter I. Your evening is free or join an optional Evening Canal Cruise. **(B)**

Day 6, in St. Petersburg, Wednesday

This morning you'll make a highlight visit to the world-famous **Hermitage**, housing more than four million works of art. It ranks

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among one of the largest and oldest museums of the world, founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great. Admire the world-famous masterpieces by Leonardo da Vinci, Rafael, Titian, Rembrandt, El Greco, Velasquez, Rubens, Van Dyck, Goya, and French Impressionists. The Hermitage occupies five buildings, the largest is the Winter Palace, the former residence of Russian Emperors. Spend the rest of the day at leisure exploring the city on your own or perhaps you may choose to take an optional tour to Petrodvorets, Peterhof Summer Palace of Peter the Great. Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a dinner. **(B, D)**

Day 7, to Tallinn, Thursday

Today journey will take us to Estonia, where your first stop is Narva, set just across the border with Russia. Continue to Tallinn, Estonia's capital, situated on the southern coast of the Gulf of Finland. **(B, D)**

Day 8, Tallinn to Riga, Friday

On a walking tour of Tallinn's Upper and Lower Old Town, visit the **Alexander Nevsky Cathedral**. Next, visit **Toompea Castle** and see the 14th-century gothic Town Hall. This afternoon, travel to Riga, the capital of Latvia. **(B, D)**

Day 9, in Riga, Saturday

On a morning sightseeing tour, see Riga Castle, the magnificent Dome Cathedral, St. Jacobs Cathedral, St. Peter's Church, the Parliament building, Liberty Monument, and the district of Art Nouveau houses. Your afternoon and evening are free. **(B)**

Day 10, to Vilnius, Sunday

Depart this morning for Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. The rest of the day is at leisure to begin exploring the city with its interesting architecture. **(B, D)**

Day 11, In Vilnius, Monday

The city of Vilnius is located on the confluence of the Neris and Velnele Rivers. In Old Vilnius, visit **St. Peter and St. Paul's Church** and **St. Anne's Church**. View Vilnius University, dating back to 1570, Gediminas' Tower in the Upper Town, and Vilnius Castle. The afternoon is free or you may want to join an optional excursion to Trakai, beautifully set on three lakes. **(B)**

Day 12, to Warsaw, Tuesday

Drive through the landscapes of Lithuania on your way to cross the

border into Poland. Then take in the Polish countryside, cities, and towns as you head to Warsaw, arriving at the day's end. **(B, L, D)**

Day 13, in Warsaw, Wednesday

Warsaw, the 700-year-old capital of Poland. A sightseeing tour here includes a drive along the famous Royal Route from magnificent Castle Square to Lazienki Park and Palace, the summer residence of the last king of Poland. Pass by the Palace of Science and Culture (known as a "wedding cake"), the Saxon Gardens, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Monument to the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto, and the Barbican. Then on a walking tour, see the Old Town, Old Market Square, and St. John's Cathedral. The rest of the day is free for a stroll through the city, shopping, relaxing, or perhaps attend an optional late afternoon Chopin concert. **(B)**

Day 14, depart Warsaw, Thursday

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight. **(B)**

TOUR K982	
STARTING DATES:	TERMINATION DATES:
15-May	28-May
22-May	4-Jun
26-Jun	9-Jul
28-Aug	10-Sep
4-Sep	17-Sep
11-Sep	24-Sep
25-Sep	8-Oct
PRICES:	
Per person in twin:	\$3,326
Single room supplement:	\$1,337

