

ALLURING RUSSIA WITH HELSINKI

9 days from Moscow to St. Petersburg and Helsinki

Vacation Highlights:

- ◆ Arrival transfer from Moscow airport to the hotel
- ◆ 8 day/7-night guided tour featuring:
 - Centrally located first class hotels:
 - 3 nights in Moscow
 - 3 nights in St. Petersburg
 - 2 nights in Helsinki
 - Buffet breakfast daily
 - A welcome reception in Moscow (heavy hors d'oeuvres, a glass of wine, beer or soft drink)
 - A lunch at a popular local restaurant in Moscow (coffee or tea included)
 - A farewell dinner in Helsinki (coffee or tea included)
- ◆ Hotel taxes and service charges
- ◆ Touring by modern air-conditioned motor-coach
- ◆ High-speed train from Moscow to St. Petersburg
- ◆ High-speed train from St. Petersburg to Helsinki
- ◆ Professional English-speaking tour director
- ◆ Sightseeing tours with licensed local guides
- ◆ Admission included where indicated in bold letters
- ◆ Luggage handling at the hotels
- ◆ Whisper technology enhanced touring
- ◆ Departure transfer from Helsinki to Helsinki airport or continue on to join Kompas' "Helsinki and the Baltic Dominions" tour

Tour Spotlights:

- ◆ Moscow's history, architecture and artistry
- ◆ Sergiev Posad and the Trinity St. Sergius Lavra
- ◆ St. Petersburg, city of palaces and museums
- ◆ Helsinki's imposing landmarks

Special Features:

- ◆ Moskva river cruise in Moscow
- ◆ Vodka tasting in St. Petersburg

Hotels:

- ◆ **Moscow:** Sheraton (F) or similar
- ◆ **St. Petersburg:** Radisson Sonya (F) or similar
- ◆ **Helsinki:** Scandic Grand Marina (F)/Radisson Blu Seaside (F) or similar

This tour can be extended with Kompas' "Helsinki and the Baltic Dominions" tour

Itinerary:

Day 1, Arrive in Moscow, Friday

Upon arrival in Moscow, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax or perhaps begin your independent discovery of the

fabled capital of Russia. Tonight, your tour director is hosting a welcome reception and will introduce you to your fellow travelers and to the fascinating tour that awaits you. **(WR)**

Day 2, in Moscow, Saturday

Our sightseeing tour begins at the Red Square, dominated by the colorful St. Basil's Cathedral and by the massive red walls of the **Kremlin**. We visit the **Armory Museum**, with its impressive collection of Tsarist, Russian, and foreign jewelry, armor, and other artifacts. Then we walk by Moscow University and continue by motor coach along the wide boulevards to Russia's largest department store GUM. After the store's visit, we motor along the Moskva River, passing the baroque Novodevichy Convent and ending the tour at the popular Arbat shopping district. The rest of the day is at leisure. In the evening, we enjoy a **cruise** on the Moskva River for the most picturesque sights of Moscow. **(B)**

Day 3, in Moscow, excursion to Sergiev Posad, Sunday

Today we travel 75 km North of Moscow, to the small town of Sergiev Posad, founded in the 14th century. It is renowned as a center of ancient Russian art and architecture. For centuries, it served as a place of pilgrimage and as the religious capital of Russia. Within the old walled city, the fairytale golden- and blue domes of the **Holy Trinity St. Sergius Lavra** beckon. This monastery is quite possibly the most beautiful of all. After lunch at a popular restaurant, we return to Moscow. The rest of the day is at leisure. **(B, L)**

Optional tour: Moscow by night & Subway

Day 4, Moscow to St. Petersburg, Monday

There is time at leisure in Moscow, before boarding the **Sapsan train** for our four hours high-speed ride to St. Petersburg. Upon arrival at the St. Petersburg train station, we will be transferred to our hotel. **(B)**

Optional Tour: Russian Folklore evening

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. Today we will visit the Palace Square with the Winter Palace, the Senate Square with the monument of Emperor Peter the Great, St. Isaac's Square with **St. Isaac's Cathedral**, Smolny Cathedral, the Cruiser Aurora, the Field of Mars, and Nevsky Prospect. We are also visiting the **Peter and Paul Fortress**, built to protect the city from enemy attacks in 1703. The Peter and Paul Cathedral, which towers in the center of the fortress served as the burial place for Russian Emperors since Peter I. After the tour, we visit the **Russian Vodka Museum**, where we will learn about the drink's origin,

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about Russian dining traditions and we taste a few vodka varieties. **(B)**

Optional Tour: River cruise

Day 6, in St. Petersburg, Wednesday

This morning we'll visit the world-famous **State Hermitage Museum**, housing more than four million works of art. It ranks among one of the largest and oldest museums of the world and was founded by Catherine the Great in 1764. Masterpieces by Leonardo da Vinci, Rafael, Titian, Rembrandt, El Greco, Velasquez, Rubens, Van Dyck, Goya, and French Impressionists are all on display. Tonight, join your fellow travelers and your travel director for dinner. **(B, D)**

Optional tour: Visit of Petrodvorets (Peterhof)

Day 7, to Helsinki, Thursday

The journey today takes us to Helsinki on board the Allegro **high-speed train** (Finnish railways) in 3 hours and 30 minutes. (Note: Helsinki and St. Petersburg are in different time zones). We transfer to our hotel in Helsinki and then have time at leisure. **(B)**

Day 8, in Helsinki, Friday

Helsinki, the capital of Finland, lies in the far south of the country, on a peninsula that is home to the busiest passenger port in the world. Our comprehensive sightseeing covers its most important and interesting areas such as the historical center, the Senate Square, the **Cathedral**, City Hall, the Presidential Palace, Finlandia Hall, and the Opera House. We stop at the Sibelius Monument and whenever possible at the Temppeliaukio church. The rest of the day is free at leisure. In the evening gather with your fellow travelers and your tour director for our farewell dinner. **(B, D)**

Optional tour: Excursion to Suomenlinna island

Day 9, depart Helsinki, Saturday

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Helsinki airport. Alternatively, you can continue your journey and join Kompas' "Helsinki and the Baltic Dominions" Tour. **(B)**

Alluring Russia with Helsinki (K020)		
departure dates	\$ pp double occupancy	\$ single supplement
2-Apr-21	\$1.790	\$520
18-Jun-21	\$2.290	\$730
16-Jul-21	\$2.290	\$730
6-Aug-21	\$2.090	\$690
10-Sep-21	\$2.090	\$690

Rates are gross, per person, in US dollars