

# History, Geography & Culture Tour of Russia

6 Nights / 7 Days



*Moscow*



*Folklor Show*



*Peterhof - St Petersburg*



*Berlin*

## \* **NOTE:**

Tour of Russia can be taken in different combinations, depending on the airline being used.

For example: **Russia & Switzerland** on Swiss Air, **Russia & France** on Air France, **Russia & Asterdam** on KLM, etc.

## Tour Features Include:

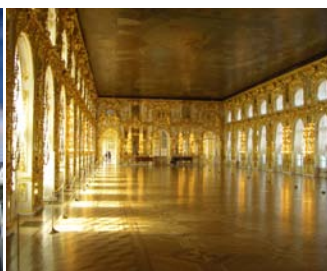
- ◆ Tour Price is based on minimum 15 Students + 1 teacher.
- ◆ Return economy class airfare on Swiss Air.
- ◆ Return economy class airfare Moscow/St. Petersburg.
- ◆ Accommodation: 2-3 in a room.
- ◆ 4 nights in Moscow
- ◆ 2 nights in St Petersburg
- ◆ Daily breakfast.
- ◆ Folklore show with beverage.
- ◆ Meeting and assistance at airport.
- ◆ Private bus.
- ◆ Professional registered English speaking tour guide.
- ◆ Entrance fees to all sites on scheduled tours.



*Kremlin Red Square*



*Catherine Palace - Ball Room*



*Tsar Palace*

## **FLIGHT JOHANNESBURG / ZURICH/MOSCOW**

Today we fly from Johannesburg to Zurich.

### **DAY 1: ARRIVE MOSCOW/FLIGHT TO MOSCOW**

Arrive Zurich 06:10. Continue on a flight to Moscow. Meet our representative at the airport and transfer to the hotel.

*Overnight in Moscow (B)*

### **DAY 2: MOSCOW/FULL-DAY CITY TOUR**

Breakfast at hotel. Embark on half-day city tour. Take the metro (walking distance from hotel) Visit to the **Red Square, St. Basil's domed Cathedral** and **Lenin's Mausoleum**. Entrance to the **Kremlin Grounds** to see the Kremlin Plus Cathedrals includes Assumption, Annunciation, Archangel, Disposition and 12 Apostles Cathedrals. Continue with a visit to **Armoury** and **Diamond Fund** (only opens periodically). The Fund is the biggest architectural ensemble of the world, which include the monuments that were built during the period from the end of XV till XX centuries. Historically Moscow' Kremlin was residence of power and in our days there is situated the residence of President of Russia. This territory is closed for visitors, but you will be able to visit one of the museums-cathedrals of ensemble and also to see the exposition of Diamond Fund-the state collection of jewel stones and some jewelry items, that have big financial, historical and art value. You will be impressed by the richness and unique of the items: throne collection of Russian Tsars, clothes of high made from jewelry, old Russian clothes of the 16-17 centuries, dresses for coronation of Russian emperatrits. Travel with the Metro and visit 3-4 station and see how well they are decorated to mosaic and chandeliers. A most worthwhile experience. Return to your hotel by metro.

*Overnight in Moscow (B)*

### **DAY 3: STAR CITY (SPACE CENTRE) TOUR**

Breakfast at hotel. Drive to Star City outside Moscow. Guided tour in **Star City** to visit the **Yuri Gagarin Museum** and view **space simulators**.

*Overnight in Moscow (B)*

### **DAY 4: MOSCOW/FREE DAY**

Breakfast at hotel. Today is free day to walk through the city streets. The famous **Arbat street** is not to be missed. In the evening, transfer to the airport for a flight to St. Petersburg. Transfer to hotel.

*Overnight in Moscow (B)*

### **DAY 5: ST PETERSBURG/FULL DAY TOUR**

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to domestic airport for a flight to St. Petersburg. On arrival go on a half-day tour. We take a drive to view **Nevisky Prospekt** and past the bronze Horseman Statue of Peter the Great. Entrance to **St. Isaac's Cathedral**. Continue to **Hermitage Museum** (also known as the **Winter Palace**) one of the most famous museums in the world. Originally commissioned by Catherine the Great as a winter palace, the museum now houses over two million exhibits. Some of the interior highlights include the Ambassador's Staircase, the Throne Room and the Ballroom. We will then visit the **Church of Spilled Blood**, where the Tsar was assassinated. The roof top domes are most beautiful architecture.

*Overnight in St. Petersburg (B)*

### **DAY 6: ST. PETERSBURG/FULL-DAY TOUR**

Breakfast at hotel. We take a full-day excursion to **Petrodvorets** and to the Tsar's village also known as **Pushkin** to visit **Ekaterina Palace** with its formal gardens. See the beautiful interiors, notably the ballroom and the newly restored Amber Room. You will see the wall covered in gold, gold and more gold...! After lunch break continue to **Peterhof**, Peter the Great's summer palace. Outside the palace are impressive water fountains and cascades and gold covered statues. Climb the staircase and visit the ball room. Here again, the walls are all covered in gold decorations. Very impressive, how the Tzars used to live. The guide will tell you much about the Germans siege of Leningrad during World War II, life in the city during that time and the German's burning Ekaterina Place. In the evening, visit Nikolaevsky Palace for a Russian folklore show & Beverage. This was a place where Lenin gave his speeches and today it's a theatre.

*Overnight in St. Petersburg (B)*

# Optional Extension to Berlin

4 Nights / 5 Day



Reichstag



Sachsenhausen Camp



Brandenburg Gate

## Tour Features Include:

- ◆ 4 nights in Berlin
- ◆ Daily breakfast.
- ◆ Meeting and assistance at airport.
- ◆ Private bus and professional registered English speaking tour guide.

## DAY 7: FLIGHT TO MOSCOW/BERLIN

Early transfer to the airport for a flight to Moscow. Transfer to the international airport for a flight to Berlin via Zurich transfer to hotel.

*Overnight in Berlin (B)*

## DAY 8: BERLIN/WALKING CITY TOUR

Arrive in Berlin and embark on **half-day** walking city tour. Visit the city landmarks of its dark past history as well as new. Walk through the **Brandenburg Gate** and see the **Reichstag** (parliament) with its famous new dome; walk past the new **Holocaust Memorial** and visit the site of **Hitler's bunker**, and listen as your guide explains why there is nothing left to see and what happened here at the end of the war. See how 21st century Berlin is taking shape on **Potsdamer Platz**; and find out where the Nazi SS and **Gestapo HQ** stood ("Topography of Terror"). See the **Berlin Wall** and follow the "death strip" (where the Berlin Wall stood) to **Checkpoint Charlie**; along the way, your guide will explain how the Wall was built as well as the momentous events of its fall in 1989, and show you where people managed to get over or through the Wall! End the tour on one of Europe's most beautiful squares, **Gendarmenmarkt**,

*Overnight in Berlin (B)*

## DAY 9: BERLIN/CONCENTRATION CAMP

Breakfast at hotel. Today is 6 hours tour to the infamous **Sachsenhausen** that was one of the main concentration camps in Nazi Germany, purposely built in 1936 by the SS, set up to detain all 'enemies' of the regime - political, racial and 'asocial'. Of the 200,000 people interned, over 50,000 lost their lives by execution, systematic brutality and appalling living conditions. See the main exhibits inside and learn why this camp was built. Following Kristallnacht in 1938, thousands of Jews were sent to the camp where they faced especially brutal treatment. Thousands of Soviet POW's were murdered immediately after arriving at Sachsenhausen in 1941, and it is estimated that over 50,000 people died here before the camp was liberated by the Soviets in 1945. The camp was then used by the "liberators" until 1950 to detain former Nazis, German soldiers and political opponents of the communists. Many thousands more died from malnutrition and disease. Inside the camp you will see the "Appellplatz" - parade ground, the Jewish Barrack, punishment cells, execution grounds and crematorium, "Station Z", the Pathology Laboratory and camp hospital.

*Overnight in Berlin (B)*

## DAY 10: BERLIN/FREE DAY/

Breakfast at hotel. Today is free at Leisure.

*Overnight in Berlin (B)*

## DAY 11: BERLIN/FLIGHT TO ZURICH/HOME

Breakfast at hotel. Free morning. Transfer to the airport for a flight to Zurich and continue on a flight back home.

# Optional Extension to Switzerland

4 Nights / 5 Day



*Zurich*



*Interlaken*

## Tour Features Include:

- ◆ 3 nights in Zurich
- ◆ 1 night in Interlaken
- ◆ Daily breakfast.
- ◆ Meeting and assistance at airport.
- ◆ Private bus and Rack Rail to Jungfrauoch and Lauterbrunnen.

## DAY 7: FLIGHT TO MOSCOW/ZURICH

Early transfer to the airport for a flight to Zurich via Moscow. Upon arrival to Zurich, transfer to hotel.

*Dinner & Overnight Zurich (B)*

## DAY 8: TRAIN TO LUCERNE/INTERLAKEN

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the railway station to take a train to Lucerne a charming medieval city. On arrival take a guided tour around the city to explore the Old Town, **Kapellebrücke**, the covered bridge and the nearby octagonal water towers. Cross the bridge to look at the paintings of Lucerne's history on the ceiling. Visit the **Jesuitenkirche**; one of the oldest baroque churches in Switzerland situated near the southern end of the bridge and the Rittersche Palast, an Italian Renaissance villa that has now become the seat of government for the canton. On the opposite side of the **Reuss River** are the **Weinmarkt, Hirschenplatz and Kornmarkt**, three squares surrounded by buildings with painted facades. Continue to the Renaissance-style town hall on the Kornmarkt. The **Museggmauer** was part of the city's medieval wall. Nine towers remain with the Zyturm, large clock dating to 1535, is the most impressive. Continue our train journey to Interlaken. The resort region consists of the quaint villages of Iseltwald, Bönigen and Ringgenberg-Goldswil on Lake Brienz, Wilderswil at the entrance to the mountain valleys and the mountain villages of Beatenberg and Habkern. Transfer to hotel. Assistance provided.

*Dinner & Overnight Interlaken (B)*

## DAY 9: GRINDWALD/JUNGFRAUJOCH/LAUTERBRUNEN/ZURICH

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the train station at **Grindwald** and take a circular ride on Rack Rail to **Jungfrauoch** and **Lauterbrunnen**. This is enjoyable trip up through idyllic Alpine meadows and forests. Here you will find yourself in front of the most magnificent mountain backdrop of Mts Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau. The imposing Eiger north face is within touching distance. In the afternoon, transfer for station in **Lauterbrunnen** to station in **Interlaken**. Return to Zurich in the evening.

*Dinner & Overnight Zurich (B)*

## DAY 10: ZURICH/FREE DAY

Breakfast at hotel. Today is free at Leisure.

*Dinner & Overnight Zurich (B)*

## DAY 11: ZURICH/FREE DAY/FLIGHT HOME

Breakfast at hotel. Today is a free day at leisure. In the late evening transfer to the airport for a night flight home.