**Two Capitals: Moscow and St. Petersburg**

**7 days / 6 nights**

**Day 1.**

Arrival in Moscow airport. Transfer to the hotel (without guide)

Accommodation in hotel.

***Optional: “Moscow by lights”.*** *Evening Bus Tour of illuminated streets of Moscow city center and skyscrapers of the Moscow International Business Center “Moscow City”.*

*Duration of the tour: 3 hours*

**Day 2.**

Breakfast in the hotel

Meeting with the guide

09:00 – 13:00 **City tour of Moscow**

You will drive along the famous embankments and streets of the historic city: Boulevard Ring and Garden Ring, Kutuzovsky Avenue; you will see the Bolshoi Theater, the Moscow Manege, Stalin's High-rise buildings, the Triumphal Arch, Sparrow Hills, the building of Moscow State University, the Luzhniki Olympic Stadium, the Novodevichy Convent, the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, modern skyscrapers of Moscow City and many others.

Transfer to the hotel

Free time

Overnight stay at the hotel

***Day 3.***

Breakfast in the hotel

Meeting with the guide

09:00 – 12:00 Visit to **Zaryadye Park**, a landscape urban park located adjacent to Red Square. The area of the park's facilities is almost 78,000 square meters. The park is divided into four climatic zones: forest, steppe, tundra, and the floodplains. These zones are organized in terraces that descend from northeast to southwest, with each layering over the next to create a total of 14,000 square meters of enclosed, programmed spaces integrated into the landscape: nature and architecture act as one. A total of 760 trees and about 7 thousand shrubs have been planted there. The objects of the park are worth to see: a large amphitheater with a curved glass roof, a concert hall, a scientific and educational center, and many others. Another feature of the new park is a picturesque view of the Kremlin, which visitors can enjoy from the Soaring bridge over the Moskva River. The Soaring bridge is a thin airy V-shaped structure with a large outward extension above the water. The bridge protracts 70 meters without a single support. The construction withstands a load of 240 tons corresponding to three to four thousand people.

**Visit to Red Square.** Red Square is one of the oldest and largest squares in Moscow. Owing to its historical significance and the adjacent historical buildings, it is regarded as one of the most notable and important squares in Europe and the world. In addition, it has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1990. It is located in Moscow's historic center, in the eastern walls of the Kremlin. You will see famous buildings such as Saint Basil's Cathedral, Lenin's Mausoleum and the GUM (State Department Store).

**Visit to Alexander Gardens.** Alexander Gardens stretch along all the length of the western Kremlin wall for 865 meters between the building of the Moscow Manege and the Kremlin. The gardens were originally called the Kremlin Gardens, but after the coronation of Alexander II in 1856, the gardens were renamed the Alexander Gardens. Towards the main entrance to the park is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with an eternal flame. It contains the body of a soldier who fell during the Great Patriotic War at the nearest point the forces of Nazi Germany penetrated towards Moscow. Post Number One, where the honor sentinels stand on guard, used to be located in front of Lenin's Mausoleum, but was moved to the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier in the 1990s.

***Optional:*** *Visit to the* ***Moscow Kremlin****: you will see the unique architectural ensemble of the Moscow Kremlin.* ***Cathedral Square*** *is the heart of the Kremlin. It is surrounded by six buildings, including three cathedrals (During your tour you will be able to visit two cathedrals: one with guided tour and another on your own). The* ***Cathedral of the Dormition*** *was the main church of Moscow, where all the Tsars were crowned. The gilded, nine-domed* ***Cathedral of the Annunciation*** *was originally the personal chapel for the tsars, and its abbot remained a personal confessor of the Russian royal family until the early 20th century. Between the* ***Great Kremlin Palace*** *(only outside view) and the Ivan the Great Bell Tower there is the* ***Cathedral of the Archangel Michael****, where almost all the Muscovite monarchs from Ivan Kalita to Ivan V of Russia were buried. The other notable structure is the* ***Ivan the Great Bell Tower*** *(only outside view), which is said to mark the exact center of Moscow and resemble a burning candle. Completed in 1600, it is 81 meters high. The* ***Tsar Cannon*** *is a monument of Russian artillery casting art, cast in bronze in 1586 in Moscow. Mostly of symbolic impact, it was never used in a war. Between the Ivan the Great Bell Tower and the Kremlin Wall there is the* ***Tsar Bell****, the largest bell in the world, weighing 201,924 kg.*

*Duration of the tour (including transfers): 4 hours*

Transfer to the hotel

Free time

Overnight stay at the hotel

**Day 4.**

Breakfast in the hotel

Check-out of the hotel. Meeting with the guide.

Transfer to the Railway Station.

The high-speed express train Sapsan (literally meaning 'Peregrine Falcon') will bring you to St. Petersburg within approx. 4 hours.

Arrival in St. Petersburg. Meeting with the guide.

Transfer to the hotel. Check-in.

**Day 5.**

Breakfast at the hotel

Meeting with your guide.

10:00 - 14:00 **City tour of Classical St. Petersburg**. You will see a unique architectural phenomenon called the Historic Center of St. Petersburg, which was entirely included in the list of World Heritage Sites. This was one of the first cases in UNESCO's practice when the status of monument was granted to a huge landscape, where hundreds of thousands of people live. You will see the monumental **St. Isaac's Cathedral**, the **Admiralty**, the Neva River with its **granite-clad banks**, **the Sphinxes** brought from Egypt on the University Embankment and aristocratic palaces facing the Neva, the **Spit of Vasilyevsky Island** with the **Rostral Columns**, the **Peter-and Paul-Fortress**, the **Winter Palace** and the **Palace Square**, the **Summer Garden** and the **Field of Mars**, the **Mikhailovsky Castle**, the **Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood**, picturesque palaces of **Nevsky Prospekt**, **Kazan** and **Smolny Cathedrals**.

***Optional:***

*Visit to the* ***Hermitage Museum****. The State Hermitage Museum is a world-known museum of art and culture. Its collections, only a small part of which is on permanent display, comprise over three million items. The exhibition halls feature works of Italian Renaissance artists, including Giorgione, Titian, Veronese, and Leonardo da Vinci; Italian and Spanish fine art including Tintoretto, Velázquez and Murillo; Dutch Golden Age and Flemish Baroque painting, including the large collections of Van Dyck, Rubens and Rembrandt, and many other paintings and sculptures. The collections occupy a large complex of six historic buildings along Palace Embankment, including the Winter Palace, a former residence of Russian emperors.*

*Duration of the tour including transfers: 4 hours*

Free time

Overnight stay at the hotel

**Day 6**

Breakfast at the hotel

Meeting with the guide.

10:00 - 13:00 City tour of **New Points of Interest & Landmarks in St. Petersburg.** We will take a tour of the new sights of St. Petersburg and see Kamennoostrovsky Prospekt with a stop at the **Great Cathedral Mosque.** Then we continue to Austrian Square and Leo Tolstoy Square. We allow us some time to feel sad at the monument of **Weeping Angel** - a memorial to the medics who died during the coronavirus pandemic. The sculpture is made in the form of a sad angel, who is sitting on a bench with his head down. Next, we will see Krestovsky Island and **Gazprom Arena** - St. Petersburg's newest soccer stadium, which hosted matches of the 2018 FIFA World Cup and matches of the 2021 European Championship. We continue to see the 462-meter-tall **Lakhta Center Tower**, which has become the northernmost skyscraper in the world. Next to the Lakhta Center we will see the Monument to **Peter the Great saving drowning people** near Lakhta. The installation of the sculpture was timed to the 350th anniversary of the birth of Peter the Great, the founder of St. Petersburg. According to legend, Peter once saved drowning fishermen on this very spot. After that, the emperor caught a cold and, perhaps, that is why he passed away.

Return to the hotel.

Free time

Overnight stay at the hotel

**Day 7**

Breakfast at the hotel

Check-out of the hotel

Transfer to the hotel (without guide)

***Program is subject to change due to organizational reasons without reducing the scope of services provided!***

***The starting times specified in the program are advisory and may change depending on the transport situation and the entrance time confirmed by the museum!***

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| **The price includes** | **The price doesn’t include** |
| - Transfers airport – hotel and hotel - airport;  - BB Accommodation for 3 nights in Moscow in a DBL/TWIN room;  - English-speaking guide according the program;  - 3 breakfasts;  - Transportation services according to the program;  - Entrance fees according the program  - Transfers airport – hotel and hotel - airport;  - BB Accommodation for 3 nights in St. Petersburg in a DBL/TWIN room;  - English-speaking guide according the program;  - 3 breakfasts;  - Transportation services according to the program;  - Entrance fees according the program | o Airline tickets;  o Sapsan Express Train tickets - starting at 80 USD/pers (prices depend on the number of days before train departure (the earlier you buy a ticket, the lower the price) and the utilization of the train capacity (the fewer available seats left, the higher the price).  o Optional excursions;  o Drinks and gratuities;  o Lunches & Dinners;  o Any services not mentioned in the section “The price includes” |

***Rates and availability need to be reconfirmed!***