

Tour to Kazan
“The Third Capital of Russia”
2 nights/ 3 days
May – September 2024

DAY 1

Meeting the group at the airport/railway station

❖ 10:00 - 12:00 **Bus tour of the city.** From the windows of a comfortable bus you will see as modern buildings as the ancient ones modestly standing for centuries, you will drive along modern avenues and ancient streets.

A special feature of Kazan is the tolerant attitude between religions. Here silhouettes of Christian bell towers alternate with silhouettes of minarets, and the bell ringing echoes with the Muslim azan. During the bus tour you will see the central squares: Tukai Square, May 1 Square, Freedom Square, Sultan Galejev Square. You will drive along Kremlin street, Tatarstan street, Gorky street, K. Marx street and other streets. You will admire the beautiful parks and appreciate the beauty of the city from the observation decks, where you will make photos, as well as visit one of the main attractions of Kazan - the Old Tatar ‘Sloboda’ (Settlement). During the tour you will be introduced to the culture of the Tatar people and its traditions. If you wish, you can also visit the Bogoroditsky Monastery, where the miracle-working copy of the Kazan icon of the Mother of God is kept.

❖ 12:00 - 13:30 Walking tour of the Kazan Kremlin - UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will see the ancient white stone walls and towers, including the **Falling Tower of Suyumbike**, the **Governor's Palace** built on the site of the former Khan's palace, as well as the mausoleum of the Kazan khans. The tour includes a visit to the orthodox **Annunciation Cathedral** and the pearl of Kazan - the **Kul Sharif Mosque**, which combines prayer halls and is also a cultural and educational center.

❖ 13:45 - 14:45 Lunch in a city restaurant

❖ 15:00 - 16:00 Visit to the **“Hermitage- Kazan” Center**. Since 2005, the Kazan Kremlin has hosted the first permanent exhibition of the State Hermitage Museum, the world-known museum of art and culture in Saint Petersburg. Changing every six months, it attracts a huge number of visitors. Works of painting, graphics, decorative and applied art, historical and cultural collections are exhibited.

❖ 16:00 - 17:00 **Walking tour along Bauman Street**, or the so-called "Kazan Arbat" after the renowned Moscow Arbat pedestrian zone, which overall appearance is dominated by street artists, souvenir stalls and shops, restaurants, cafés and bars. This part of the city was formed at the end of the 17th century by Kazan merchants. The history of its origin is very interesting, and its appearance was forming for centuries!

During the excursion you will see:

- Oriental clock with figures of characters of Tatar fairy tales,
- the world's first monument to the great opera singer Fyodor Shaliapin,
- sculptural compositions in the form of fountains,
- the building of the Drama Theater, founded more than a hundred years ago,
- an exact replica of Empress Catherine the Great's carriage,
- monument to the Kazan Cat,
- The Zero Meridian of Kazan memorial sign and the alley of stars.

You will also learn about:

- About underground passages and gold reserves of Russia,
- Why is the Epiphany Bell Tower so tall,
- What building in Kazan resembles an unfolded book and why.

Additional: you will be able to visit souvenir stores and get acquainted with Kazan handicrafts.

❖ 17:00 - 17:30 Transfer and check-in to the hotel.

❖ Free time.

DAY 2

- ❖ Breakfast at the hotel
- ❖ Meeting with the guide in the hotel lobby
- ❖ 09:00 - 20:00 **Travel to Bolgar**. The ancient city of Bolgar, the historical homeland of the Tatars, is located on the right bank of the Volga River, 200 km from Kazan. The city from where Islam spread throughout the Volga region. You will be enchanted by the land of the Volga Bulgars, rich in beauty and landscapes. You will visit the museum-reserve, see the **Northern and Eastern mausoleums** with 700 years of history, as well as the most mysterious and majestic building of Bolgar - the **Black Chamber**. An experienced guide will tell you about the beautiful and mysterious legend connected with it. The **White Mosque** will amaze your imagination, and staying on this historical land will make you feel like a real archaeologist and traveler.
- ❖ 12:00 - 12:30 **Tatar-style tea party** with pancakes
- ❖ 15:00 - 16:00 Lunch in a city restaurant
- ❖ 20:00 Return to Kazan.

DAY 3

- ❖ Breakfast at the hotel
- ❖ Check out from the hotel
- ❖ Meeting with the guide
- ❖ 10:00 - 11:30 Visit to the **Chak-Chak Museum** (Tatar's national sweet) with a tea party
- ❖ 11:30 - 12:30 **Walking tour of the Old Tatar Settlement**. The heart of the Tatar part of Kazan is the Old Tatar Sloboda. The echoes of active social and merchant life here are in plain sight. You will be taken on an excursion with a story about the life of local Tatar population. You will see the characteristic features of Tatar architecture, learn about the "sign of hospitality" and why Tatar merchants addressed Catherine the Great as- "Grandmother - Tsarina". You'll be told why Kazan "ichigas" (Tatar boots) are still popular in France and can make a photo in the "window of Kazan". You will see the oldest stone mosque of the city, get acquainted with its history and features of Muslim life.
- ❖ 13:00-14:00 Lunch in a city restaurant
- ❖ 14.30 - 15.30 Visit to the "**Tugan Avylim**" **Complex** with a master class "Tatar costume". At the master class you will get acquainted with characteristics of folk dress, try on the costumes of khan and khansha, those of Queen Suyumbike and of rich townspeople. Bright photos in unusual outfits will be a gift for you and will keep your impressions for a long time.
- ❖ Transfer to the airport/railway station.

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!

Package rate per person in EUR

Hotel	10+1 free	15+1 free	20+1 free
"Davydov" 3* or "Kristall" Hotel 3* or similar	440	420	380
"Bilyar Palace" Hotel 4* or "Suleyman Palace" Hotel 4* or similar	465	440	400

The prices are subject to change depending on the EUR/RUB exchange rate and need to be reconfirmed!!!

The price includes	The price doesn't include
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfers airport/railway station – hotel and hotel – airport/railway station; - Accommodation in a DBL/TWIN standard room; - 1 pax free in a SGL room; - Guide according to the program (English/German/French/Italian speaking guide, other languages per request); - HB Accommodation for 2 nights in Kazan; - 3 breakfasts + 3 lunches; - Transportation services; - Entrance fees according to the program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Airline/train tickets; o Optional excursions; o Drinks and gratuities; o Dinners (starting at 15 EUR); o Any services not mentioned in the section “The price includes”