

9 Days

Russia **SPLENDOUR**

St Petersburg / Novgorod / Tver / Moscow



ST. PETERSBURG	: THE FORMER CAPITAL OF RUSSIAN EMPIRE
NOVGOROD	: ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT TOWNS OF RUSSIA
TVER	: THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF MEDIEVAL IMPERIAL RUSSIA
MOSCOW	: THE CAPITAL CITY OF RUSSIA

**DAY 1 : KUALA LUMPUR / BANGKOK / MOSCOW / ST PETERSBURG**

Assemble at the appointed check-in counter at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, your tour manager will be there to assist you through the flight check-in formalities. Depart on your pleasant flight to Moscow via Bangkok. On arrival at Moscow, connect domestic flight to St Petersburg. Meet and greet on arrival at **Pulkovo International Airport** and transfer to hotel for check-in.

**DAY 2 : ST PETERSBURG**

(Buffet Breakfast / Local Russian Lunch / Chinese Dinner)

**St Petersburg**, the former capital of the Russian Empire and the symbol of a new Russian history and grandiose, a city rich in culture, heritage and great architectural works. It is the second largest city in Russia and has been dubbed as the 'Venice of the North' for its beautiful palace lines water ways. This morning, visit the **Palace Square of Winter Palace** where you will see the **Angel Crowning Alexander Column**. Then visit the **State Hermitage Museum** which is one of the largest museum in the world where its collection numbers about 3 millions exhibits and holds the world's largest collection of paintings. The **Winter Palace** which is the residence of the Russian Tsars is one of the five buildings that make up the architectural ensemble of the State Hermitage Museum. After lunch, visit **St Isaac's Cathedral**, the greatest and finest cathedrals in the Russian Empire built in the 19th century and a dominant figure in St. Petersburg skyline. Next, proceed to visit **St Isaac's Square** where you will see the **Monument of Nicholas I**. Continue to visit the picturesque **Decembrists Square** with the famous **Monument of Peter the Great (The Bronze Horseman)** that radiates out onto the beautiful **Neva River**. Finally, walking tour of the famous and elegant shopping street of **Nevsky Prospekt** which is the main street of St Petersburg. We will first make a photo stop at the colorful and marvelous Russian style **Church on the Spilled Blood** and then to the main street where you will see the impressive stone colonnade of **Kazan Cathedral** and the unique and awesome architectures along the street.

**DAY 3 : ST PETERSBURG**

(Buffet Breakfast / Local Russian Lunch / Chinese Dinner)

Morning excursion tour to the **Great Palace of Peterhof (Petrodvorets)**, founded by Peter the Great in the early 18th century, located in the suburbs of St Petersburg on the Southern shore of the Finnish Gulf. Upon arrival, visit the exuberant decorated Grand Palace that symbolizes the grandeur of Russia. Many celebrated architects, sculptors, artists as well as thousands of talented craftsmen contributed to the creation of this magnificent palace. The stately parks which are only open during summer features innumerable fountains, beautiful cascades, gilt and marble statues of gods and heroes. Return to the city, we drive to **Vasilevsky Island** and make a stop at the **Rostral Column** of the old sea port. Then visit the famous historical and revolutionary monuments of **Peter and Paul Fortress**, founded in 1703 with its location selected by Peter the Great himself who well understood the strategic advantages of placing such an outpost on the island in the Neva Delta and the fortress was erected as the nucleus of the future city of St Petersburg. Inside the fortress we will visit the impressive **Peter and Paul Cathedral**, the burial place of all the Russian Emperors and Empresses from Peter the Great to Alexander III which stands in the middle of the fortress. Finally make a photo stop at the **Aurora Battle Cruise** which is a Russian protected cruiser and currently preserved as a museum ship.

**DAY 4 : ST PETERSBURG / NOVGOROD**

(Buffet Breakfast / Local Russian Lunch / Local Russian Dinner)

This morning our journey head south about 200km, takes us over the Russian plains to one of the most ancient towns of Russia, **Novgorod**. It is also the greatest international trade centre on the Baltic-Volga commercial route which tied northern Europe with Asia as early as in the mid 8th century. On our arrival, visit to the **Old Kremlin Grounds**, the **Millennium Monument** and the **St. Sophia Cathedral** which is the oldest surviving stone structure in Russia dating from 1045. It is renowned for the famous icon of the 12th century, the 'Virgin of the Sign', which was returned back to the cathedral in 1991 when divine services were resumed.

**DAY 5 : NOVGOROD / TVER / MOSCOW**

(Breakfast / Local Russian Lunch / Local Russian Dinner)

Today, sit back, relax and enjoy a scenic drive to the region of **Tver** which was once the capital of a powerful medieval state and model provincial town during the Imperial Russia. It is located at the confluence of the Volga and Tvertsa Rivers. On arrival, proceed for a brief city tour and enjoy our lunch in this region. Then we continue our journey to **Moscow**, the capital and the largest city in Europe with its metropolitan area ranking among the largest urban areas in the world.

**DAY 6 : MOSCOW**

(Buffet Breakfast / Chinese Lunch / Chinese Dinner)

City tour of Moscow this morning, visit the famous and oldest **Red Square** which is situated in the very heart of Moscow. See the **St Basil's Cathedral** one of Moscow's best known landmark which is famous for its mass of brightly painted onion domes and turrets. Next to it, is the **Spasskaya Bell Tower** and **Lenin's Mausoleum**, the resting place of the embalmed body of the founder of Soviet Communism. Visit the **Gum Department Store**, an elegant shopping mall combining Russian medieval ecclesiastical architecture and is filled with boutiques and designer stores. Next, we enter the beautiful ancient fortified **Kremlin** for a tour to experience the fascinating history of the development of Moscow's seat of political and spiritual power and the famous leaders who have resided and ruled from there. Visit the three beautiful **Cathedrals of Assumption, Annunciation** and the **Deposition of the Robe**. Our tour in **Kremlin** includes admission to visit the **State Armory Museum** which is the oldest museum in Russia and home to a staggering collection of priceless imperial artifacts and royal treasures dating as far back as the 14th century and encompassing everything from the crown jewels to a magnificent collection of Imperial carriages. Later in the afternoon we will visit **Arbat Street** which is the first pedestrian street in Moscow and you will find shops selling antiques, jewelry, souvenirs, art galleries, folk arts and many interesting sights. This evening, enjoy the world famous **Russian Circus Show** (subject to availability).

**DAY 7 : MOSCOW**

(Buffet Breakfast / Local Russian Lunch / Local Russian Dinner)

This morning, we proceed for excursion tour to **Sergiev Posad**. On arrival visit the famous and beautiful **Trinity St Sergius Monastery**, founded by St Sergius in 1354 and was built over six centuries. In the monastery you will visit the churches and one of the most important is the **Cathedral of the Holy Trinity** where the shrine of St Sergius relic is stored to commemorate his immense service to the state. Return to Moscow and experience the tour of **Moscow's Metro**, also know as **Underground Palaces** which is one of the most beautiful subway system in the world. We will ride on the train to visit a few main underground stations.

**DAY 8 : MOSCOW / BANGKOK**

(Buffet Breakfast / Chinese Lunch)

After breakfast, city sightseeing tour of Moscow features **Vorobyev Hills, Moscow University, War Memorial** and **Novodevichy Convent**. After lunch, transfer to **Domodedovo International Airport** for your homeward bound flight via Bangkok.

**DAY 9 : BANGKOK / KUALA LUMPUR**

Arrive at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, bringing home sweet memories and enjoyable moments of your Russian tour with iXplore Russia.