

Russia

- Fri Arrive in **Moscow**, Domodedovo (DME)
take Aeroexpress train to the city - Paveletskaya metro station
(every 30 min, ~1 hour ride), from there by subway
Rest of afternoon free
- Sat Full day in Moscow
- Sun Full day in Moscow
- Mon Full day in Moscow
- Tue Flying Moscow - **St. Petersburg**, take bus to the city
Rest of afternoon free
- Wed Full day in St. Petersburg
- Thu Day trip: Peterhof Palace or Catherine's Palace
- Fri Full day in St. Petersburg
- Sat Full day in St. Petersburg
- Sun Flying St. Petersburg (LED) - Moscow (DME) ~70 min
Departing from Moscow (DME)

Total days: 11. Total vacation days: 6-7.

Trip Highlights

Red Square & Kremlin

Lenin's Tomb

Beautiful Orthodox churches
& Monasteries

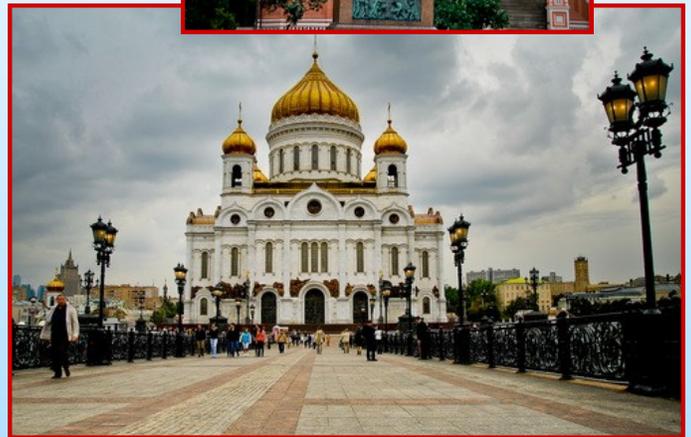
Sampling Tasty Russian Food

The Hermitage

Witnessing bridge drawing in
St. Petersburg

Peterhof summer residence

Boat ride along the canals of
St. Petersburg



Moscow To Do List

	\$ US
St. Basil's Cathedral	1.5 hrs \$2/\$8
The Red Square, Lenin's Tomb, & GUM	3-4 hrs free
The Kremlin: The Armoury Chamber & Cathedrals	5-6 hrs \$9-33
The Kremlin: Diamond Collection	40 min \$3/\$16
Cathedral of Christ the Saviour	1.5 hrs free
Novodevichy Convent and Cemetery	4 hrs \$5
Museum-reserve Tsaritsyno (summer residence of tsars)	5-6 hrs free/\$4-11
Victory Park (open-air WWII museum)	2-3 hrs free
Boat cruise on the Moscow river	1.5 hrs \$13+
Tretyakov Gallery (Russian art)	3 hrs \$9-14
Estates of Russian authors (Tolstoy, Chekhov, Pushkin, etc)	1+ hr \$3+
Kolomenskoye Park & Estate (summer residence of tsars)	4-5 hrs free
Bunker-42 (The Cold War museum)	3 hrs \$23/\$42
GULAG History Museum	1.5 hrs \$2-11
Bolshoi Theatre	3+ hrs \$80+

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St. Petersburg To Do List

		Price
The Hermitage	5-6 hrs	free/\$13
The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood	1 hr	\$8
Peter and Paul Fortress	4-5 hrs	\$11
Lady of Kazan Cathedral	0.5 hr	free
St. Isaac's Cathedral + access to the roof	2 hrs	\$11
Boat tour of the canals	1.5 hrs	\$9-11
Peterhof Palace & Gardens (outside of St. Petersburg)	1 day	\$17/\$32
Museum of Anthropology and Ethnography (= Kunstkammer)	2-3 hrs	\$6
Yusupov Palace	2-3 hrs	\$17/\$25
Stroll along Nevsky Avenue		free
Watch bridge drawing at night	1-2 hrs	free
Take panoramic pictures from Strelka (Vasilievsky Island)	1 hrs	free
Escape the heat at newly-renovated Summer Garden	2 hrs	free
Make a wish at Chizhik-Pyzhik (Siskin) statue		free
Catherine's Palace & Gardens (out of town)	1 day	\$7/\$14

All prices mentioned are as of September 2012

Good to know:

1. Train travel in Russia is becoming more expensive: a second class ONE way ticket between Moscow and St. Petersburg cost as much as a round trip flight (\$140-150)
2. Trains with names (e.g., Red Arrow, Leo Tolstoy, Grand Express) are a little more expensive than trains that are just numbered. Are they better? Ideally they are newer and cleaner, but that's not a guarantee. Russia is all about surprises - pleasant and unpleasant.
3. Once in the Hermitage, go through the state rooms first and leave the museum part for later. State rooms are more fun and you need to be fresh to appreciate all the details.
4. The Kremlin is closed on Thursdays and the Hermitage - on Mondays. Every first Thursday of the month - entrance to the Hermitage is free to all. Also, Hermitage is free with a student card.
5. The Armoury Chamber is the main attraction inside the Kremlin, and tickets there are often sold out within hours. To make sure you get in, come early. For example, the ticket office is open at 9:30; you need to be there at 9:00 or even 8:30 (in summer). Box offices are located outside the Kremlin wall in the Aleksandrov Gardens. An audio guide inside the museum is free.
6. The Diamond collection is a separate exhibition inside the Armoury Chamber which requires an additional ticket that you can purchase once you are inside. Tickets are very limited, and the line is usually long. It's okay if you don't get in: many Muscovites have never made it there - and that's not because of the lack of trying.
7. If you want to visit Lenin's Mausoleum at the Red Square, get some patience. Like if he was alive, he has a hectic schedule and limited visitation hours. Admission is free, but expect to stand in a long line and be prepared to check all your belongings at a nearby storage facility. Admission to Mausoleum allows you also to access the part of the Kremlin wall where other prominent people of the Soviet Union are buried. Hours: 10 am-1 pm on Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat