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Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "Back Roads of Russia: St Petersburg - Moscow" (ARSM), [but here are some similar trips](#).



## **Back Roads of Russia: St Petersburg - Moscow**

12 days, Saint-Petersburg to Moscow

Trip code ARSM

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: Karelian Cooking Class, Kinerma
- Your Hands-On Moment: Matryoshka Painting Class, Sergiyev Posad
- St Petersburg walking tour
- Kizhi Island boat tour
- Ruskeala Quarry walk
- Kinerma walking tour
- Karelian cooking class
- The Sergiev Posad Lavra and Monastery tour
- Matryoshka painting class
- Pereslavl-Zelesskiy guided tour
- Barbecue with local family
- Tour of Alexandrov Kremlin
- Red Square visit
- Kremlin and Armoury guided tour
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2021 and onwards

# Itinerary

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**NOTE:** Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

## Saint-Petersburg

Arrive at any time.



## Today's Activities

### ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2

## Saint-Petersburg

Get to know St Petersburg with a morning walking tour visiting some of the city's highlights.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Today's Activities

Free Time

Saint-Petersburg

Explore the opulent streets of this city.

Saint Petersburg Walking Tour

Saint-Petersburg

3h

Take a guided walking tour to get familiar with the city – each walking tour is different based on the route the local guide chooses to take. Discover the hidden back alleys and small parks St Petersburg is famous for, as the local guide lifts the veil on this hidden world. Learn about the city's fascinating history, and hear retelling of stories about famous buildings and local residents. Typically, the tour will stay around Nevsky Prospekt and will often end at the Hermitage, with visits to the Kazan Cathedral, the Church on Spilled Blood, and St Isaac's Cathedral along the way.

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### Optional Activities - Day 2

Midnight Canal Boat Tour

Saint-Petersburg

800RUB

Opt for a midnight canal cruise in St Petersburg during the summer months when the sun barely sets. The experience is particularly fantastic in June during the White Nights' celebrations.

Peterhof Visit

Saint-Petersburg

1500RUB

One of St. Petersburg's most famous and popular visitor attractions, the palace and park at Peterhof (also known as Petrodvorets) are often referred to as "the Russian Versailles", although many visitors conclude that the comparison does a disservice to the grandeur and scope of this majestic estate.

Day 3

## Saint-Petersburg/Sortavala

Enjoy a free morning in the city. Opt to visit the Hermitage Museum or explore on your own. This afternoon, drive to Sortavala (Karelia).

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Saint-Petersburg - Sortavala

5h-6h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

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### Optional Activities - Day 3

Hermitage Museum Visit

Saint-Petersburg

400RUB

Visit the Hermitage Museum, one of the biggest museums in Europe, famous for its amazing art collection. Be inspired by its varied exhibitions, and wander among storied walls - the museum was previously home to the Tsars for almost 200 years.

In the morning, transfer to Ruskeala to visit stunning marble quarries, the source of stone for St Petersburg palaces. Transfer to the traditional Karelian village of Kinerma and enjoy a walking tour of the village. Learn to cook a traditional Karelian pie, "Kalitki," and indulge in local cuisine for lunch. End the day in Petrozavodsk.



## Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



## Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Sortavala - Ruskeala

1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ruskeala Quarry Walk

Ruskeala - Moscow

1h-2h

Visit the marble quarries of Ruskeala which were the source of stone for the St. Petersburg palaces.

Private Vehicle

Ruskeala - Kinerma

3h30m-4h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Kinerma Walking Tour

Kinerma

1h-2h

Enjoy a walking tour of the traditional Karelian village, Kinerma.

### ACTIVITY

Learn to cook local traditional Karelian pies "Kalitki".

Private Vehicle

Kinerma - Petrozavodsk

3h30m-4h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 5

## Petrozavodsk

This morning, head out for a guided tour of Petrozavodsk, named after Peter the Great. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant, then spend the afternoon exploring old-growth Russian forests on a walk through the Kivach Waterfall and Nature Reserve. Transfer back to Petrozavodsk for the night.

Walk through the Kivach Nature Reserve, a 10-hectare park with hundreds of plant and animal species unique to this Russian region. Visit its namesake waterfall, the inspiration for a famous Russian poem that led Emperor Alexander II to build a road to Kivach.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### Today's Activities

Petrozavodsk Guided City Tour

Petrozavodsk

4h

Discover the capital of Karelia on a guided walk through Petrozavodsk, named after Peter the Great. Visit Lenin Square and a monument to one of Russia's most powerful tsars, before heading toward the shores of majestic Lake Onega and ending the tour at a local history museum.

Private Vehicle

Petrozavodsk - Kivach

1h30m

80km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Kivach Waterfall and Nature Reserve

Petrozavodsk

Visit the Kivach Waterfall on a guided walk through the middle of the Nature Reserve. Powered by the Suna river (legend has it she broke away from her sister, the Shuya River), Kivach Waterfall inspired a famous Russian poem written in the 18th century. Learn about local flora and fauna at the nature museum, and find rare plants like the Karelian birch in the arboretum.

Private Vehicle

Kivach - Petrozavodsk

1h30m

80km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 6

## Petrozavodsk/Moscow

Take an early morning drive to the boat for a trip to Kizhi Island. Visit the wooden village and enjoy the scenery of the beautiful lake. This evening, board an overnight train to Moscow.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Petrozavodsk - Kizhi

1h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Kizhi Island Tour

Kizhi

5h

Hop on a boat and tour the island, taking in the historical wooden houses and views of the lake.

Basic Overnight Train (beds)

Petrozavodsk - Moscow

12h

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Day 7

## Moscow/Sergiyev Posad

Arrive into Moscow and transfer by private bus to Sergiev Posad. Explore the sacred Sergiev Posad Lavra and Monastery. Later, participate in a Master Matryoshka painting class.



### Today's Activities

#### ACTIVITY

Learn to paint in a Master Matryoshka painting class.

Holy Trinity Lavra Entrance

Sergiyev Posad

1h30m

Take a tour of the Monastery and experience The Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius.

Private Vehicle

Moscow - Sergiyev Posad

1h30m

73km

Arrive at the train station in Moscow and transfer by private bus to Sergiev Posad.

Day 8

## Sergiyev Posad/Pereslavl-Zalessky

Transfer to Pereslavl-Zalessky and enjoy a guided city tour. Opt to visit one of the many historical museums in the city. Enjoy a barbecue dinner at a local guest house where we will spend the night.

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### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner

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### Today's Activities

Free Time

Pereslavl-Zalessky

3h

Take some time to appreciate the history of this city by exploring one of the many museums or walking to the lake.

Private Vehicle

Sergiyev Posad - Pereslavl-Zalessky

1h30m-2h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Pereslavl-Zelessky Guided Tour

Pereslavl-Zalessky

1h30m

Take a guided tour to get familiar with the city and it's surroundings. Spot the various monuments and take in the sights of Lake Plescheevo.

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### Optional Activities - Day 8

Museum of Flat Iron

Pereslavl-Zalessky

Opt for a history lesson at the Flat Iron museum.

Day 9

## Pereslavl-Zalessky/Moscow

After breakfast drive to Alexandrov. Enjoy a guided tour of Alexandrov Kremlin, the former residence of Ivan the Terrible. In the afternoon, drive to Moscow.

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### Meals included

Breakfast

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### Today's Activities

Excursion on Alexandrov Kremlin & interactive program

Pereslavl-Zalessky - Sergiyev Posad

Referred to as the "ancient jewel of the city", the Alexandrov Kremlin is an impressive site. From its white walls, to its domes and towers, this complex of churches is the second biggest in Russia, after the Moscow Kremlin. Soak in the architecture while learning all about Ivan the Terrible and his influence in Russia and the Kremlin.

Day 10

## Moscow

Enjoy an orientation and walking tour of Moscow, visiting Metro, Old Moscow alleys and the Red Square. In the afternoon, enjoy free time exploring the city.

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### Today's Activities

Red Square Visit

Moscow

1h30m

The Red Square is an excellent place to start exploring Moscow. Indulge in the many fantastic food and shopping options nearby; you also have easy access to St Basil's Cathedral, the Kremlin and Armoury Museum, Lenin's Mausoleum, and Alexandr Gardens. Most of Moscow's main streets lead from Red Square and the famous Moscow metro provides easy access in and out of it.

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### Optional Activities - Day 10

Alexander Garden Visit

Moscow

Free

Wander the beautiful Alexander Gardens or visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Saint Basil's Cathedral

Moscow

Check out the colourful onion-domed towers of stunning St Basil's Cathedral, located right in the middle of a sprawling open square. It is the most quintessential Russian sight, and definitely lives up to its hype.

Lenin's Mausoleum

Moscow

Free

Ready to meet one the most famous embalmed leaders in the world? Lenin's Mausoleum is a popular stop for travellers in Russia and is located conveniently in Red Square.

Day 11

## Moscow

In the morning, take a leap into the past with a guided tour of the historical Moscow Kremlin & Armoury. In the afternoon, enjoy free time in the city.



### Today's Activities

Kremlin and Armoury Ticket

Moscow

4h

Enjoy a visit to one of the most famous symbols of Russia. For centuries, it was a residence of the tsars, and today it is the official residence of the President of Russian Federation. The Armoury Chamber is a massive treasure trove that houses thousands of items gifted to the Russian tsars and emperors by royals and ambassadors from around the world. Get ready to be stunned by gold goblets, famous Faberge eggs, 18th century embroidery, and gilded royal carriages.



### Optional Activities - Day 11

Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts

Moscow

300RUB

This is the largest museum of European Art in the city of Moscow, and boasts works by Rembrandt, Degas, Van Gogh, and other famous artists.

Alexander Garden Visit

Moscow

Free

Wander the beautiful Alexander Gardens or visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Lenin's Mausoleum

Moscow

Free

Ready to meet one the most famous embalmed leaders in the world? Lenin's Mausoleum is a popular stop for travellers in Russia and is located conveniently in Red Square.

Day 12

## Moscow

Depart at any time.

## What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: Karelian Cooking Class, Kinerma
- Your Hands-On Moment: Matryoshka Painting Class, Sergiyev Posad
- St Petersburg walking tour
- Kizhi Island boat tour
- Ruskeala Quarry walk
- Kinerma walking tour
- Karelian cooking class
- The Sergiev Posad Lavra and Monastery tour
- Matryoshka painting class
- Pereslavl-Zelesskiy guided tour
- Barbecue with local family
- Tour of Alexandrov Kremlin
- Red Square visit
- Kremlin and Armoury guided tour
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Get to know St Petersburg on a walking tour, Learn how to cook a Karelian specialty, Take a boat trip to Kizhi Island, Let creativity flow with a matryoshka painting class, Wander around the Red Square

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Get to know St Petersburg on a walking tour, Learn how to cook a Karelian specialty, Take a boat trip to Kizhi Island, Let creativity flow with a matryoshka painting class, Wander around the Red Square

## **Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?**

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**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## **Is there an itinerary Disclaimer?**

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

### 1. OFFICIAL LETTER OF INVITATION

You will require a Letter of Invitation for Russia in order to get your Russian visa. You must complete the visa information form which will be automatically sent to you or your travel agent via email upon time of booking.

### 2. IMMIGRATION CARD

On arrival in Russia you will receive a double immigration card, you must fill out both parts and one is taken away upon entry, the other must remain with your passport at all times and you must have it when you are leaving Russia to hand to the relevant authorities.

### 3. PASSPORT

Please confirm the tour with the same passport you will be travelling with in Russia. If you happen to change passports before departure, please reach out to our Sales team with your new passport details so they can notify our teams on the ground.

### 4. BOOK THEATRE TICKETS IN ADVANCE

To avoid disappointment we recommend that you book any theatre performances that you wish to attend in Moscow in advance. Please consider carefully which performances you are going to want attend and make sure that the dates correspond to your trip. Here are some useful internet sites to check for what will be on (ballet, opera, exhibitions, etc) in Moscow when you are there. In particular we recommend you see what's playing at the Bolshoi, as it may be difficult to get tickets when you are there. The most useful sites to check in English are [www.bolshoi.ru](http://www.bolshoi.ru) and [www.ticketsofrussia.com](http://www.ticketsofrussia.com).

### 5. MONEY

Due to the bank restrictions on changing money in Russia only notes/bills printed after 1996 and in good condition will be accepted for exchange. Usually 50 and 100 USD/EUR notes get better exchange rates.

### 6. ACCOMMODATION NOTE:

Please be aware that properties we stay in with only two stories may not have elevators installed and climbing the stairs with your luggage will be necessary.

## What is the group leader like?

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our Chief Experience Officers (CEO). The aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

## How large will the group be?

Max 16, avg 12

## **What meals are included in this trip?**

7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner

## **What are the meals like on this trip?**

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

## **What are the modes of transportation on my trip?**

Private vehicle, overnight train, boat.

## **What transportation will we take on this trip?**

The overnight train is 2nd Class Kupe Soft sleepers: 4 berth compartments that have lockable doors. There are overhead lockers and storage space under the bottom bunk that is sufficient space for your luggage. Bed linen is provided on all trains. Each carriage has two toilets and one hot water boiler. There is at least one train attendant in each carriage to take care of passengers and maintain the facilities. Most of the trains (but not all) will have dining car. This being said, it is always a good idea to bring your own snacks aboard for more variety of food options while travelling.

## **Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?**

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

## **Where will we stay during the trip?**

Hotels (9 nts), guest house (1 nt), sleeper train (1 nt).

## **Do any exceptions apply to Rooming or "My Own Room" on my tour?**

Night 6 (overnight train)

## What kind of accommodation can I expect on this trip?

A variety of styles of hotels/guest houses are used on this trip. In some local guest houses used in smaller towns, the rooms can be small and simple with shared toilet facilities and showers. In the main cities, hotels will be used.

## What is the joining hotel?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

## What are the joining instructions?

The St. Petersburg's only airport Pulkovo is located south of the city, about 20km from the city center (Nevsky avenue) and 9km from the nearest metro station Moskovskaya, a point to which lead all public and commercial transport routes from the airport. Our Joining hotel, "Dostoevsky" is situated in the centre of St Petersburg, near the metro stations Dostoevskaya and Vladimirskaaya which are connected underground.

By Metro:

From St Petersburg Airport (Pulkovo International Airport) take a Bus Number 39 which runs every 10-15 minutes from Pulkovo Airport to Moskovskaya metro station. Go to the Metro station, take 5 stops until you reach metro station Tekhnologicheskyy Institut (Технологический институт), at this station change the line to red line. From here, you need to take 2 more stops till metro station Vladimirskaaya (Владимирская), this is the station where you exit. Vladimirskaaya metro station has one exit. When you are outside you will see the Church of the Vladimir icon of the Mother of God. You will find hotel Dostoevsky in front of the Church across the street.

By Taxi: If you would like to take a taxi from the airport there are few official taxi companies like Taxi Pulkovo which has a desk at the airport, when you exit from a customs area & have fixed rates depending on the part of the city you are going. There might be people at the airport offering you a private transfer, please avoid accepting their offer.

## What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

If your call is specifically concerning Airport Transfer complications please call our local G Adventures Transfer provider directly at: ++992 48 701 9900

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Office Central Asia:

Mr Laziz Otayarov (Operations Manager - Central Asia)

Mobile 1: +99890 963 4779 (24h)

Mobile 2: +99897 921 7087 (24h)

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

You will be on the move a good deal, so pack as lightly as possible (try to stay under 10kg / 22lb). It is in your own interest as you are expected to carry your own luggage. Please, note that we use public transport on this trip - the walking distance is never too far, but there will be up and down stairs in train stations, getting on and off metros, cobblestoned streets, etc and having a backpack makes travelling easier. We don't recommend bringing suitcases.

It is important that your bag can be locked. We recommend an overnight pack for the long train journeys, sparing you from going in and out of your luggage in the small compartments. This should be big enough to carry a spare set of clothes, towel, book, cards and basic toiletries (approx. 30 litre/8 gallons capacity).

# What should be on my packing list?

## Cold Weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers
- Warm waterproof jacket

## Conservative Dress:

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

## Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

### Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

### Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

### Light Hiking:

- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)
- Walking poles

**Sleep Sheet:**

- Sleep Sheet

**Train Travel (Optional):**

- Slip-on shoes
- Travel cutlery
- Small container with lid
- Travel or camp cup

**Warm Weather:**

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: We recommend using a backpack or soft suitcase for your main luggage. As we will be travelling on trains with limited storage space (typically inside your sleeping compartment) we recommend that your luggage dimensions be approximately 76x50x40 cm.

## When can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

# What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

To apply for a Russian visa, all nationalities must present an official Russian Letter of Invitation (LOI).

\*\*\*It is the responsibility of the traveller to check with their nearest Embassy and confirm the requirements for entry into Russia\*\*\*

**IMPORTANT:** Once your trip is confirmed, at 90 days prior to your entry into Russia, you must submit an application for your Letter of Invitation. A link will be emailed to you in your confirmation email. The details will be forwarded to our local agent in Russia and as a Russian visa is only valid for 90 days once it is issued, you will be emailed your Russian Invitation Letter about 10 business days after submission. Russian LOI's can be rushed in extreme circumstances.

As Russian visas are dated specifically for entry and exit, please ensure you enter the correct dates. We also recommend that you add an extra day to the end of your trip so your visa length will cover any unexpected delays. Please also remember to put exactly the same dates when you fill out the visa application at the Russian Embassy.

Input your name the same way it is in your passport. The information on the application form must match your passport (if you have 2 or more names - all of them have to be listed under "first name").

If you have an umlaut or other character not recognized in the english alphabet in your name (ie. ü), please enter it in the longer form (ie. ue).

Please note: Our Supplier will provide the Russian LOI by email only. This Supplier is based in Russia, so please make sure to check your SPAM folder - emails from addresses ending with .ru often get redirected as SPAM.

Some nationalities may require an original copy of the LOI - please contact the Russian Embassy or Consulate to confirm. If you do require an original copy, please send an email to [experience@gadventures.com](mailto:experience@gadventures.com) to request this. You will be required to provide a valid mailing address and cover the cost of postage to receive this document.

The LOI will contain 2 sections. The section on the right in Russian is identical to the section on the left in English. Beside 'Confirmation voucher SPC' you will find the confirmation/application/approval number you will need when filling out your visa application. The Supplier information can be found at the bottom of the left page in English (Supplier name can be found in the quotations, address, email, website and phone number follow).

At time of writing, the below documents will be needed to obtain your visa (however, we do advise you confirm this with your nearest Embassy):

1. A standard visa application form from the Embassy or Consulate where you will collect your visa
2. 2 colour, passport sized photos (taken within 14 days)
3. Payment for the visa (this will be dependent on nationality and will sometimes need to be made at a local nearby)

bank - check with your Embassy to confirm details)

4. Passport with empty pages and at least 6 months validity

5. Russia Letter of Invitation

6. We also recommend bringing your vouchers as well as proof of onward travel (flight tickets entering and leaving the country) and a copy of the itinerary, printable from our website. While this may not be needed, we recommend having a copy on hand if needed.

\*\*\*Please carefully check all the information below prior to submitting\*\*\*

Once you have received your LOI you can apply for your visa by going to the Russian Embassy. Please remember that it is your responsibility to check whether passport details, name spelling and dates on the LOI are correct.

#### PASSPORT DETAILS

Please confirm the tour with the same passport you will be travelling with in Russia. If you happen to change passports before departure, please reach out to our Sales team with your new passport details so they can notify our teams on the ground.

Information accurate as of January 21st, 2016

## **How much spending money do I need for my trip?**

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

# What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

## Money Exchange

During this tour the local currency you will use is the Russian Ruble. As currency exchange rates in Central Asia do fluctuate, we ask that you refer to the following website for the most up to date daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) for each of the above mentioned currencies.

You will find that USD and EUR are the easiest to exchange in Russia (AUD and CAD can be exchanged also, mostly in big cities).

**IMPORTANT:** Due to bank restrictions, you will not be able to exchange banknotes printed earlier than 1996; and also notes with stamps or marks on them.

The most consistent way to get local currency is to exchange USD or EUR cash into Rubles but please understand the security risk of carrying large sums of money. A mix of cash, credit and debit cards are recommended but it is always good to have some cash on hand for situations where there are no other options available. A money belt is highly recommended to carry cash and important documents through Russia.

There are ATMs in each big city on the way; in all of them you can withdraw local currency. Major credit cards are accepted in the shops and restaurants almost everywhere in Russia.

Some banks in Moscow will allow cash advances against a credit card but these are subject to steep service charges and interest rates and should only be used in an emergency.

## How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## Do I need to pay a departure tax?

Departure Tax is included in all International and Domestic tickets in Russia.

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

In Russia some restaurants include 10% service charge into the bill - check the menu before leaving a gratuity.

Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$1-\$2 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

At the end of your trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$20-25 USD per person per week can be used

## What activities are optional on this trip?

### Saint-Petersburg

- Midnight Canal Boat Tour (800RUB per person)
- Peterhof Visit (1500RUB per person)
- Hermitage Museum Visit (400RUB per person)

### Pereslavl-Zalessky

- Museum of Flat Iron

### Moscow

- Alexander Garden Visit (Free)
- Lenin's Mausoleum (Free)
- Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts (300RUB per person)
- Saint Basil's Cathedral

## Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that sometimes we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. In Asia pharmacies tend to stock the same western drugs as you get at home but they are usually produced locally so please bring the full drug name with you when trying to purchase a prescription drug. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

## What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## What are the trip specific safety considerations?

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

## What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

## How should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

When packing, be aware of local dress standards. Russia will definitely display the full spectrum from high fashion to extremely conservative. As a visitor, it's always best to dress conservatively, especially travelling into the more remote regions, as some areas are more religious/modest than others. Loose, lightweight, long clothing is both respectful and practical. As a general guideline shoulders and knees should be covered when visiting religious sites - shorts, singlets and tank tops are not suitable. For the train journey, comfortable "lounging" clothes are recommended with slip-on sandals and light layers to pile on and take off as temperature on the train fluctuates.

## How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)\*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

## Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

## How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

## Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

## What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

## Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.