

Amazing Journeys - RUSSIA, UKRAINE



the Best of



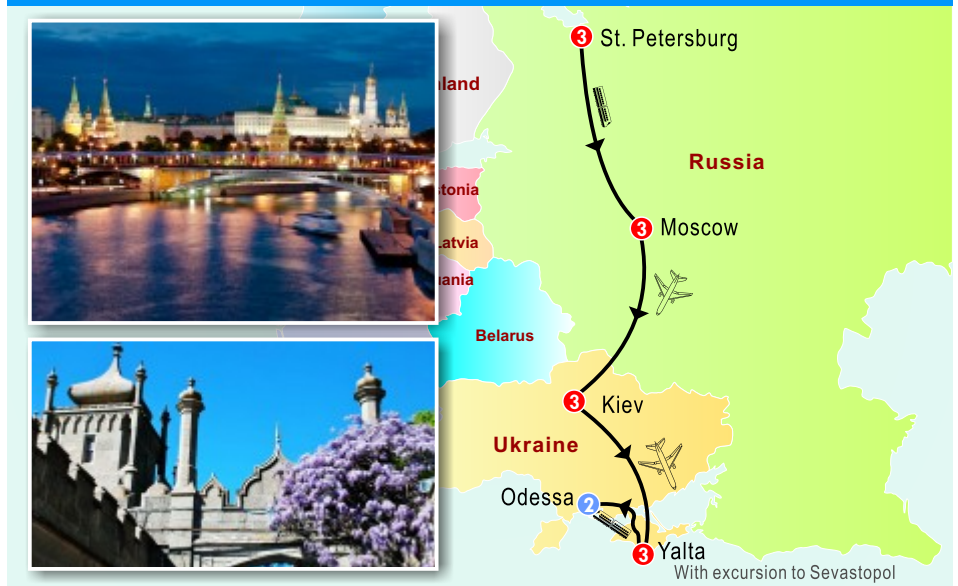
Russia and Ukraine



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15 Days 14 Nights



Day 01 Arrive St. Petersburg

The city was created by Peter the Great to rival Venice. Its 101 islands, 66 canals, and hundreds of bridges have secured its reputation as the most beautiful city in the country. On arrival, meet and transfer to hotel. Accommodation at Holiday Inn Moskovskie Vorota or, similar

Day 02 St. Petersburg (B. L.)

Visit to Peter and Paul Fortress in the morning. The Fortress was built to protect Peter the Great's northern city from the threat of Swedish attacks and now the emblem of the city and the resting place of many of the Russian Tsars. After lunch, sightseeing features the former residence of Russian emperor, the Hermitage State Museum, one of the world's largest and oldest museums. It was founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great and opened to public in 1852.

Day 03 St. Petersburg (B. L.)

Excursion to Tsarskoe Selo, including visit to the Park and Catherine Palace. The palace we see today was designed by the Italian architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli, the creator of the Winter Palace and Smolny Cathedral. Enjoy a visit to the palace, stroll along the alleys of the park with its numerous pavilions, ponds and sculptures and don't forget to take a look at the Lyceum just next door to the palace, a 19th century school for

the elite, where the famous Russian poet Alexander Pushkin and many other well-know Russian figures studied. Further down the road, visitors will find the Aleksandrovsky Palace, the favoured home of the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II.

Day 04 St. Petersburg / Moscow (B.) via Express train

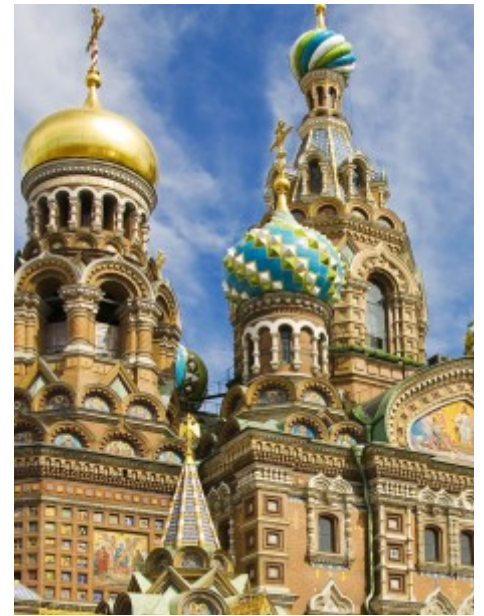
After breakfast, transfer to railway station and board express train to Moscow (approximately 5-hour journey). On arrival, meet and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Accommodation at Holiday Inn Sushevsky or, similar

Day 05 Moscow (B. L.)

Sightseeing introduces a visit to Novodevichy Convent, founded at the beginning of 16th century. For 400 years, the Convent was the witness and the participant of important historical events. The architectural ensemble of the convent was formed by the end of 17th century and till remains one of the best in Russia. Then a Metro tour (the Metro is acknowledged to be one of the most spectacular achievements of the early Stalinist era) and visit to Old Arbat Street.

Day 06 Moscow (B. L.)

Visit to the Red Square and the Kremlin...the former residence of Russian czars. See Assumption



Cathedral, Annunciation Cathedral and the Cathedral of the Archangel, the burial place of the czars. On the grounds of the Kremlin there are famous Czar Cannon of the 16th century and the 10th-century Czar Bell. Continue to State Tretyakov Gallery...the national treasury of Russian fine art and one of the greatest museums in the world.

Day 07 Moscow / Kiev (B.)

After breakfast a flight to Kiev, capital of Ukraine. Kiev is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Its elaborate architecture, little and quiet streets and many historical sights... On arrival, meet and transfer to your hotel. Accommodation at City Park Hotel or, similar

Day 08 Kiev (B. L.)

Start the day visiting the 'onion-domed' St. Sophia Cathedral, founded in the 11th century. This majestic cathedral is under patronage of UNESCO. Onto St. Andrew's Church, built in the 18th century and designed by renowned Italian architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli. Finish the day with a visit to Kiev Pecherska Lavra, founded in a cave by the monk Antony in 1051. This monastic complex includes the College of the Dormition, a bell tower, the Refectory, the Trinity Church and caves with underground chapels and imputrescible relics of saints.

Day 09 Kiev (B. L.)

Enjoy a morning visit to the Pyrohovo Museum of Folk Architecture, a recreated village which contains excellent examples of traditional Ukrainian buildings in an open air setting. Upon return to the city, enjoy a 1-hour cruise on Dnipro River. Finish the day with a visit to the bustling main boulevard Kreschatyk, and the Golden Gates, the only remaining section of ancient Kiev's original fortifications.

Day 10 Kiev / Simferopol / Yalta (B.)

A flight to Simferopol, a gateway city of Crimea Peninsula. On arrival, transfer to Yalta. Accommodation at Levant Hotel or, similar

Day 11 Yalta (B. L.)

Visit some of Yalta's key sites of interest including the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the Livadia Palace, where Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin decided the date of the post-war Europe. We also take a boat trip out to the 'Swallow's Nest', a picturesque gothic building hanging over the the Black Sea.

Day 12 Yalta / Sevastopol / Yalta (B. L.)

Excursion to Sevastopol, once a 'closed city' under Soviet times. There, visit to the Defense of Sevastopol Panorama, founded in 1960 and one of the largest museums in Ukraine. It consists of 'Defense of Sevastopol 1854-1855', Diorama, Defense Tower Malakhov Hill, St. Vladimir Cathedral, the House-museum of underground, etc. Onto Chersonesos Reserve and return to Yalta after the visit.


Day 13 Yalta / Odessa (B.) by train

Transfer to Simferopol and board train to Odessa (approximately 10-hour ride). On arrival, a transfer to hotel. Accommodation at Black Sea Hotel on Rishelyevskaya or, similar

Day 14 Odessa (B. L.)

Odessa's location on the Black Sea has meant that it has sat astride importance trade routes and been a crossroads of cultures for centuries. We visit the legendary Potemkin Steps – pivotal in the 1905 Russian Revolution, as well as its Opera House, considered to be one of the most beautiful in Europe. Also, a visit to the Archeological Museum. You will have a bit of free time today to explore this vibrant seaside city.

Day 15 Depart Odessa (B.)

Time at leisure till a transfer to the airport for your international flight. 

Travel tips:

- A Ukrainian visa is required for SA passport holders.
- Local Ukrainian currency is UHA. 1 USD=8UHA.

Cost from USD 6,995 per person sharing, USD 995 additional for single supplement

Included: Land only

Category: Superior

Departure dates: 25 May & 05 October 2013 / 07 June & 04 October 2014 / 20 June & 03 October 2015 / 28 May & 24 September 2016 / 03 June & 30 September 2017