

# RUSSIA

Destination guide

#BeThatTeacher



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# An introduction to Russia

There is an epithet sometimes used to describe Moscow, "The Hero City". Peter the Great founded St. Petersburg as a window to Western Europe and, as a result, the city today is very much geared towards tourism and you'll hear English more frequently here than the capital.

## "The Hero City... a cultural and historical melange of wonderment"

Two true heavyweights of European and indeed world history; St. Petersburg was the capital prior to Moscow and there remains a strong rivalry between them on many levels - with just cause when you get a sense of their epic history, the power within and the cultural influence each possesses.

That said, world wonders such as Red Square, the Kremlin and St Basil's Cathedral are jaw-to-the-floor amazing, but represent only a tiny fraction of the cross-curriculum attractions amongst the 12 million people present. Equally, the dozens of museums of St. Petersburg including the Hermitage are a cultural and historical melange of wonderment.

All visits are covered by our externally verified Safety Management System and are pre-paid when applicable. Prices and opening times are accurate as of May 2018 and are subject to change and availability. Booking fees may apply to services provided by Voyager School Travel when paid on site.

For the most accurate prices bespoke to your group size and travel date, please contact a Voyager School Travel tour coordinator at [schools@voyagerschooltravel.com](mailto:schools@voyagerschooltravel.com)





## Did you know?

The Tsar Bell is the largest in the world at a massive 201,924 kilos - and it has never been rung!

Population

12,228,685

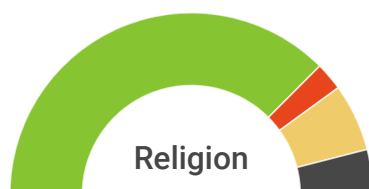


★ Capital city  
Moscow



3000 km

London to Moscow

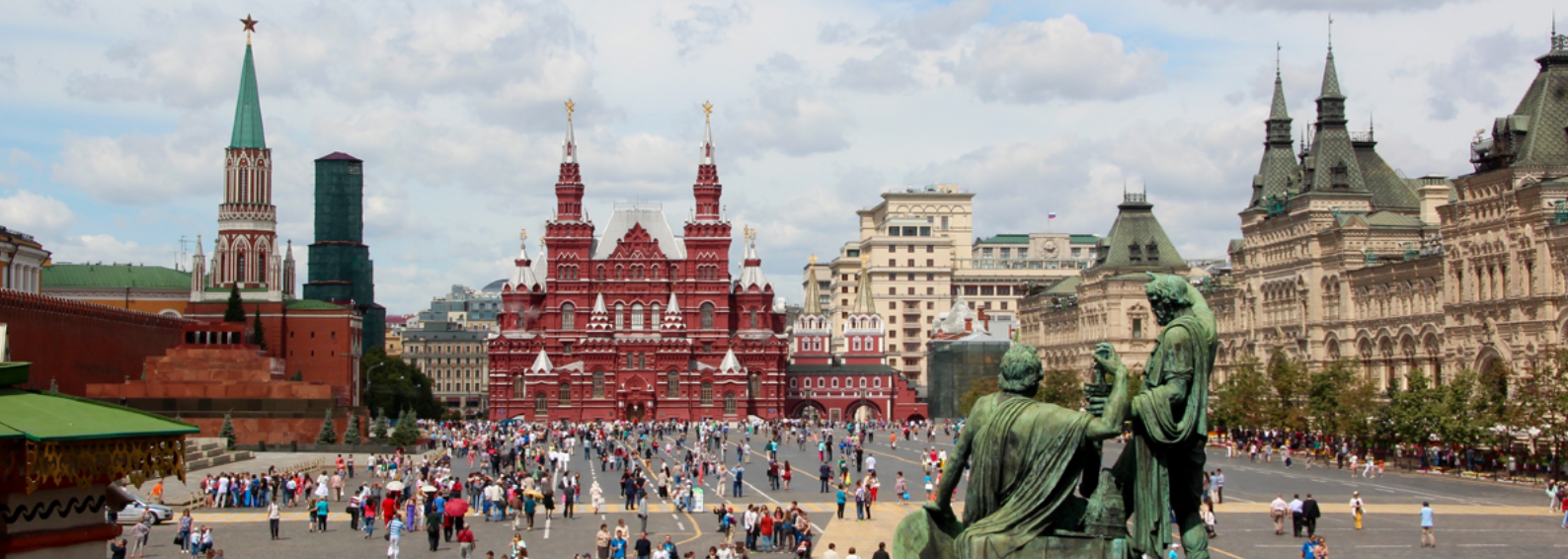


Religion



35 - 45 hours

Travel by coach



## City Tour

Meet your guide and enjoy a full day visiting the Red Square for Lenin's Mausoleum, the Kremlin and cathedral. You will then have lunch and go on to see the famous Moscow metro for a tour, Tretyakov Gallery and onto the fallen Statues park. If time permits you will also visit Arbat Street for shopping.

## Red Square

Overlooked by the Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow's Red Square is probably one of the country's most famous landmarks. Although it is now associated with political strength after thousands of mounted Russian troops trampled Nazi officials at the end of World War II, it was originally a medieval shanty-town home to vagabonds, drunkards and criminals, who were banned from dwelling within the city 'proper'.

Many people think its name comes from Russia's links with communism but the name 'Red Square' came about because red in Russian originally meant 'beautiful' and so the square was initially known as 'Beautiful square'.

## The Kremlin

The Kremlin is the political centre of Russia with its own armories, churches and palaces. The Cathedral Square and Cathedral of the Assumption are probably the most iconic buildings of the Kremlin. Cathedral Square was built to be the first great public space during the ascension of the Muscovite power in the 14th century and was always the site of any state funerals, weddings, christenings and coronations. In 1918 the Cathedral officially closed as a place of worship and became a museum.

[kreml.ru](http://kreml.ru)

Price	Free
Opening times	Daily: 10:00 - 18:00 Closed Thursdays

## St. Basil's Cathedral

Also known as 'the Cathedral of the Intercession of the Virgin by the Moat', St. Basil's Cathedral is unique in its design, but is not how it would have looked when it was commissioned by Ivan the Terrible in 1552 to mark the capture of Kazan from Mongol forces.

It is made up of eight chapels built around one central cathedral, which probably reflects the medieval symbol of Christianity, the eight-pointed star.

[moscow.info](http://moscow.info)

Price	Free
Opening times	Daily: 11:00 - 17:00 Closed Tuesdays

## Stalin's Bunker

It is well known that Hitler kept a bunker from which he planned military missions, but it is perhaps less well-known that Stalin had one too. You can now visit his secret underground quarters, which have been transformed into a museum and kept in the same condition (with the same furniture and decoration) as it was in the 1930s when it was built.

As it turns out, Stalin preferred working in the Kremlin so the bunker was only used very occasionally. Don't forget to check out the 17 km long secret tunnel that connects the bunker to the Kremlin.

## Ulitsa Varvarka

If you're in the Red Square, you could fit in a visit to Ulitsa Varvarka, said to be the oldest street in Moscow. Although the street is short, it boasts more churches than any other street in the city. The name of the street comes from the church which is immediately to your right as you enter the street from the Red Square, the Church of St. Barbara.



## Lenin's Mausoleum

Lenin's Mausoleum, also known as Lenin's Tomb, is where you can pay homage to the father of Russian communism. The embalmed body of Vladimir Lenin has laid here since his death in 1924.

There are rumours that the actual body has been replaced by a wax model. As you queue along the Kremlin wall, remember that the wall itself is a mausoleum to the many other heroes of the communist cause such as Charles Rutenberg, the first General Secretary of the US Communist Party.

[lenin.ru](http://lenin.ru)

Price	Free
Opening times	Daily: 10:00 - 13:00 Closed Mondays and Fridays

## Metro Tour

Take a tour of one of the world's most beautiful and impressive underground transport systems that became a symbol of the power of socialism in Russia under Stalin.

In the 1930s the Soviet leader decided that Moscow needed a new form of transport to carry its increasing inhabitants around the city. The new metro had 260 km of track, some at depths of up to 86 metres, and 165 stations.

Stunning architecture, ornate mosaics and beautiful stained glass meant that the most elaborate stations looked like rich cathedrals and museums. The tour takes under two hours and includes visits to the most awe-inspiring stations.

[moscowfreetour.com](http://moscowfreetour.com)

Price	Students £17pp Adults £27pp
Opening times	Every day: 15:00

## The Hermitage Museum and the Winter Palace

The Hermitage Museum, connected to the Winter Palace, houses a collection of around 3 million works of art and artefacts of world culture. From art to military history, it covers a wide range of interests. Visit the armoury to see 15,000 artefacts of Russian, Western European and Oriental weaponry from the middle ages through to the C.20th.

For those of you who want to find out about Russian culture in particular, there is a specialist Russian culture section reflecting a 1000 year Russian history.

[heritagemuseum.org](http://heritagemuseum.org)

## Cruiser Aurora

The Cruiser Aurora was a battleship built in the years 1897-1900 that was active in the Russo-Japanese war from 1904-1905. After the war, the ship was mainly used for naval military training, but in October 1917, Cruiser Aurora took the limelight, when it fired a blank shot signalling to revolutionaries that it was time to storm the Winter Palace.

During the 900 day siege of Leningrad, the ship once again came to the rescue, when its guns were dismantled and used for front-line defence. After the war, the ship was carefully restored and opened as a free museum and training base for cadets.

[navalmuseum.ru](http://navalmuseum.ru)

## Peter and Paul Fortress



The Peter and Paul Fortress was commissioned by Peter the Great after he reclaimed land along the Neva Delta from the Swedes. It was built to protect the area against future attack from Swedish forces.

Founded on a small island in the Neva Delta on May 27th 1703, which has since been recognised as St. Petersburg's birthday, it served as the city's garrison and, rather more notoriously, as a high security prison for political dissidents. One of its first inmates was Alexei (Peter the Great's rebellious son) and since then it has held such great names as Dostoyevsky and Trotsky.

[spbmuseum.ru](http://spbmuseum.ru)

## The Cabin of Peter the Great

The first residential building to be built in the new city of St. Petersburg was small wooden cabin built as accommodation for Peter the Great. He lived there from 1703 to 1708, and the living room, bedroom and study are still filled with his belongings. Peter wanted all the buildings to be built of stone, as per the European tradition, but he could not afford it, so he ordered the house to be painted as if it were made out of bricks.

[rusmuseum.ru](http://rusmuseum.ru)



## GUM Shopping Centre

A visit to the heart of Moscow the Red Square is not complete without a quick glance inside GUM shopping mall - the ultimate shopping experience for consumerists. This space was briefly converted into an office space for Stalin in 1928, but today holds a breathtaking array of shops and exclusive boutiques stretching the space of a 2 and a half football fields! Students are sure to find a souvenir here!

[gumrussia.com](http://gumrussia.com)