

Russia's Imperial Capitals & Ancient Villages

MOSCOW, THE GOLDEN RING AND ST. PETERSBURG



Rostov's Spaso-Yakovlevsky Monastery

Discover where Russian art, architecture and culture began. In between the urban centers of Moscow and St. Petersburg, experience the Russian countryside. The oldest and loveliest churches in Russia, the classic Slavic harmonies of Rostov's bells, Sergiev Posad's wooden crafts and Fedoskino's glowing lacquer boxes all put a shine on Russia's Golden Ring.

Days 1-2: Moscow Begin in Moscow, the political and economic center of Russia. Explore the Kremlin, Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral and the Armory Museum.

Days 3-4: Vladimir, Suzdal, Plyos, Kostroma Set out through the Russian countryside, passing clusters of *dachas* and tiny villages. Stop at Vladimir and Suzdal to see the UNESCO-listed 12th and 13th century churches. Drive to Plyos and enjoy authentic Russian cuisine in a private home. In 12th century Kostroma, visit the Romanov family chambers.

Days 5-7: Yaroslavl, Rostov, Sergiev Posad, Fedoskino Visit historic Yaroslavl and admire the red brick churches, decorated with ceramic tiles crafted by members of the town's renowned *posad*, or craft center. Stop

in Rostov, a beautiful old city celebrated for its bells and its immense kremlin. Pause at Sergiev Posad to admire its 14th century monastery and learn about *matrioshka* doll making. Visit the Museum of Lacquer Miniatures in Fedoskino, namesake of the hand-painted lacquer boxes made here. Return to Moscow and board the afternoon train to St. Petersburg.

Days 8-11: St. Petersburg Spend three exhilarating days in St. Petersburg, dipping into the riches of the Hermitage, touring St. Isaac's Cathedral, and wandering the imperial estate of Peterhof with its gilded fountains.

SMALL GROUP TOUR



11 Days

2 departures in 2010

July 16-26 • September 10-20

Land Tour Cost

4-16 travelers \$5,795

Single Supplement \$825

Stay a little longer... Extend your stay in St. Petersburg or venture to Petrozavodsk and Kizhi Island. Contact us for details.



A congregation of matrioshka dolls

MIR Signature Features

- Experience the classic Russian art of bell ringing in Rostov
- Tour a Sergiev Posad workshop where nesting *matrioshka* dolls are painted by hand
- Observe craftspeople making lacquer miniature boxes in Fedoskino



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