

Russia's Imperial Capitals & Ancient Villages

MOSCOW, THE GOLDEN RING AND ST. PETERSBURG



photos: John Seidel

Golden Ring church in Rostov

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, 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, and UNESCO-listed Novodevichy Convent with its famous cemetery.

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 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, wandering the imperial estate of Peterhof with its gilded fountains, and admiring the expertly-restored Amber Room at Catherine's Palace.

SMALL GROUP TOUR



11 Days

Cultural Series Land Tour

\$5,995 per person, double occupancy
Single supplement \$1,195

Comprehensive tour inclusions listed on page 103

Group Size 4-16 travelers

2012 Land Tour Dates

June 1-11 • July 13-23 • September 7-17

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



photos: Martin Kliment

Babushkas are Russian grandmothers

MIR Signature Experiences

- Experience a warmhearted welcome at a meal in a Russian home
- Tour a Sergiev Posad workshop where nesting *matrioshka* dolls are painted by hand
- Observe craftspeople making lacquer miniature boxes in Fedoskino

