



MIR



Inside the Russian Space Program 2020



Inside the Russian Space Program

From Star City to the Baikonur Cosmodrome

One departure in 2020 – 10 Days – Premier Series Special Tour

Preliminary Dates: *October 8-17, 2020

Enter the once highly classified world of Russian space travel as a privileged guest. Explore Star City, outside of Moscow, the premier training facility for cosmonauts and foreign astronauts heading for manned space flights. Next, journey to the arid steppe of Kazakhstan and the remote desert launch site of the Baikonur Cosmodrome. Witness the manned launch of the Soyuz spacecraft on its way to relieve the crew of the International Space Station, enjoying special access to V.I.P. viewing areas and briefing sessions. If you've ever dreamed of space travel, here is your chance to see it up close and personal.

This departure may also be led by MIR president and founder, Douglas Grimes, a member of the Explorers Club and the pioneer of this amazing MIR program. Douglas knows this program inside and out, and has had the opportunity to attend nine previous manned launches at Baikonur.



Daily Itinerary

Day 1, Thursday, October 8	Arrive Moscow, Russia
Day 2, Friday, October 9	Moscow • Star City
Day 3, Saturday, October 10	Moscow • optional Cosmonaut Training Day
Day 4, Sunday, October 11	Moscow • fly to Baikonur, Kazakhstan
Day 5, Monday, October 12	Baikonur
Day 6, Tuesday, October 13	Baikonur
Day 7, Wednesday, October 14	Baikonur • Soyuz launch
Day 8, Thursday, October 15	Baikonur • fly to Moscow, Russia
Day 9, Friday, October 16	Moscow
Day 10, Saturday, October 17	Depart Moscow

Special note regarding air arrangements for this program: The dates of this program rely on the Soyuz launch date, and are therefore subject to change. Given the possibility of launch dates changing, MIR cautions travelers not to purchase non-refundable/non-changeable air tickets.



MIR Signature Experiences

- Enjoy special access to V.I.P. viewing areas and briefing sessions at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- Meet and talk with one of the Russian cosmonauts at the formerly secret Star City training center on the outskirts of Moscow, where training takes place for all Soyuz-ISS missions.
- Get up close and personal in Baikonur with cosmodrome workers, officials, and former and current cosmonauts at the pre-launch activities, including the roll-out of the Soyuz from the assembly hanger to the launch pad, the Raising of the Rocket ceremony, and the walk along the Alley of Cosmonauts.
- Witness the launch of the Soyuz rocket on its way to the International Space Station, from a special viewing area.
- Take the unique opportunity to train like a real cosmonaut by signing up for one of the optional training activities: a Zero-Gravity Flight, or Space Walk Training in the Orlan Space-suit Lab at Star City.

Tour Highlights

Moscow	Novodevichy Cemetery (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Red Square (UNESCO World Heritage Site), St. Basil's Cathedral
Star City	See the Mir Space Station simulator, Soyuz-TMA integrated simulator, either the world's largest centrifuge or the Tsf-7 (7 meter centrifuge), ISS mock-up, Star City Museum, enjoy lunch at the Cosmonauts' Cafe
Baikonur	Baikonur Cosmodrome on the Kazakh steppe, roll-out of Soyuz rocket and the raising of the rocket ceremony, Baikonur Museum. Also including Gagarin and Korolev living apartments, various Cosmodrome launch pads, the Ready to Go Report before boarding the rocket, special viewing area from which to witness and feel the power of the Soyuz launch



Daily Itinerary



Day One, Thursday, October 8

Arrive Moscow, Russia

On arrival in Moscow, transfer to the hotel, located in the heart of the city. Gather for a **welcome reception** and dinner this evening at a local restaurant. After dinner, enjoy an optional evening walking tour of **UNESCO-listed Red Square**. Red Square is spectacular at night, with beautiful St. Basil's Cathedral next to the Kremlin wall and Lenin's Tomb.

Meals: D – *InterContinental Hotel or similar*

Day Two, Friday, October 9

Moscow • Star City

Today drive to the **Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center**, or GCTC, in the once highly classified and secretive **Star City**, located in a forested region approximately 25 km from Moscow.

The center was established in 1960, and since 1968 has been named for Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space. On April 12, 1961, Gagarin was launched into space on board Russia's secret Vostok spacecraft and returned safely to Earth, on the first manned space flight in the history of humankind. Today the GCTC remains the



premier training facility for Russian cosmonauts and foreign astronauts planning manned space flights. The GCTC closely cooperates with the European Space Agency (ESA) as well as with CNES (France) and NASA.

The center is proud of its numerous achievements, including its support of the first female cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova, and the first space walk of Alexei Leonov, as well as the training of the first space tourist, Dennis Tito, from the U.S. The center is known for its



biomedical training enabling cosmonauts to efficiently spend a year or more in space and to recover quickly upon their return to Earth.

Trace the evolution of the Soviet space program, explore the **Mir Space Station Simulator** (the Mir was operational from 1986-2001), and learn about Russian-American cooperation in space that the GCTC supports by training joint crews on the simulator of the **International Space Station**.

Visit the **Soyuz-TMA integrated simulator** and the ISS mock-up. Lunch is served in the **Star City cafeteria**, which is used by the crew members in training and other facilitators of the Star City complex. Each program participant **receives a special certificate recognizing his or her visit to Star City**.

Return to Moscow for dinner at a local restaurant.
Meals: B, L, D – *InterContinental Hotel or similar*

Note: Upon arrival, a Star City physician will conduct physical exams and prepare those who have signed up for optional cosmonaut training activities, to take place tomorrow or on your return to Moscow. There are some limitations on participation.

Day Three, Saturday, October 10

Moscow • optional Cosmonaut Training Day

Today those who take part in any of the optional cosmonaut training activities depart for GCTC again after an early breakfast.

Those not taking part will continue touring Moscow today. Start with a visit to **Moscow's Space Exploration Museum**, or the **Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics**, which is housed in the base of the monument named "To the Conquerors of Space." The monument is a huge upright titanium contrail behind a rocket taking off into the sky. The museum celebrates the Soviet Union's exploits in space, and includes artifacts like Yuri Gagarin's space suit and the first rocket engine.

After lunch at a local restaurant, continue with Moscow's Kremlin. The **UNESCO-listed Moscow Kremlin** reminds modern-day Russia of its medieval past. Built on the site of Prince Yuri's hunting lodge, the Kremlin overlooks the Moskva and Neglina rivers. In the mid-14th century, the Russian princes, ruling from the Kremlin, became so powerful that Moscow was named the center of the Russian Orthodox Church. Under the guidance of Ivan the Great, Moscow extended its influence and soon became the seat of Russian political power.

Today, the Kremlin remains the center of Moscow and Russian politics. Inside the fortress walls are palaces, cathedrals, government buildings and the Armory Museum. Built in the 16th century as a warehouse for the Kremlin's weaponry, the **Armory** was transformed into an exhibition hall and museum in 1814. It now houses Russia's national treasures, such as religious icons, Fabergé eggs, a bejeweled chalice belonging to Prince Yuri, and Catherine the Great's ball gowns and shoes.

Meals: B, L, D – *InterContinental Hotel or similar*



Day Four, Sunday, October 11

Moscow • fly to Baikonur, Kazakhstan

After an early breakfast this morning, transfer to the airport for a flight to the Baikonur Cosmodrome, located on the steppe of Kazakhstan. This will be a **special flight** for those going to witness and participate in the launch. On arrival, transfer to the hotel and settle in before dinner.

Meals: B, L (on the plane), D – *Sputnik Hotel or similar*

Day Five, Monday, October 12

Baikonur

The program begins with an early-morning viewing of the **roll-out of the Soyuz rocket**.

This up-close-and-personal sight is awe-inspiring. **Follow the Soyuz to the launch pad site** and watch the **raising of the rocket** together with the press, military personnel, cosmonauts and their relatives.



Spend the rest of the day **touring sites around Baikonur**, including the **main launch pad** and the **“Gagarin Start” launch pad** where the Sputnik launches took place, and mingle with the press and other guests.

After lunch at the hotel, observe civilian life in Baikonur with a visit to the city’s central market. Here you will have an opportunity to find some rocket-themed souvenirs while watching Kazakhs and Russians haggle over fresh produce.

Afterwards, return to the hotel for dinner.

Meals: B, L, D – *Sputnik Hotel or similar*



Day Six, Tuesday, October 13

Baikonur

Spend the day touring sites around the town of Leninsk, including the Central Market and a visit to the International Space School. Stroll down **Cosmonauts' Alley**, where each cosmonaut plants a tree. Here you can find the first tree planted by Yuri Gagarin. Continue your tour of Baikonur in the afternoon with a visit to **the Baikonur Museum**, the monument to the beginning of the Space Age, and the Zenit launch pad.

Dinner tonight will be at the hotel.
Meals: B, L, D – *Sputnik Hotel or similar*



Please Note: The order of events for all of the days in Baikonur may be moved around to coincide with the actual launch time window.

Day Seven, Wednesday, October 14

Baikonur • Soyuz Launch



Today is the **day of the manned space launch** of the Soyuz to the International Space Station. Witness the process before, during and after the launch. Experience behind-the-scenes events, including the **Space Crew ready-to-go official report**. Then, drive into the Cosmodrome territory and pay your respects to the pioneers of Soviet space travel at the **the Yuri Gagarin and Sergei Korolev living apartments**.

Next we drive to the launch viewing place to witness the countdown and launch of the Soyuz on its way to the ISS.

Depending on the flight departure time back to Moscow and the actual launch, we will take time to tour the assembled hanger if permitted, and see some of the launch pads as well, like the **Energia, Proton or other launch pads located in the Cosmodrome**.

Meals: B, L, D – *Sputnik Hotel or similar*





Day Eight, Thursday, October 15

Baikonur • fly to Moscow, Russia

Depart to the airport this morning after breakfast for the flight back to Moscow. Flight schedules are subject to change, but arrival in Moscow should be in time for lunch at a local restaurant and afternoon touring.

Visit Moscow's **Novodevichy Convent's Cemetery**. A number of prominent cosmonauts are buried here, including Gherman Titov, the second man in space, along with renowned rocket engineer Pavel Belyayev, whose life-sized statue depicts him walking in space. Other luminaries include Gogol, Chekhov, Scriabin, Mayakovsky, Stanislavsky, Prokofiev, Eisenstein, Khrushchev, Raisa Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin.

Meals: B, L, D – *InterContinental Hotel or similar*

Day Nine, Friday, October 16

Moscow

Enjoy a final day of touring Moscow today, after breakfast at the hotel. Take a special tour of the **Energia Space Museum**. The Energia Space Museum is located on the grounds of the Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation's factory complex. The museum displays artifacts from the history of space travel in the former Soviet Union and today's Russia, including the very rare Yuri Gagarin's original landing module, the spacecraft from which Alexei Leonov took the world's first space walk, and a full-scale mock-up of the Soyuz-Apollo spacecraft to name a few.

The Moscow suburb of Korolev, besides being the location of the Korolev Rocket and Space Corporation, also hosts Moscow Mission Control. Both the suburb and the corporation are named after Sergei Korolev, the mastermind behind Russia's space program during the Cold War. His namesake corporation has designed and built rockets, spacecraft and components since it was a government-owned Soviet agency known as Special Design Bureau No. 1.



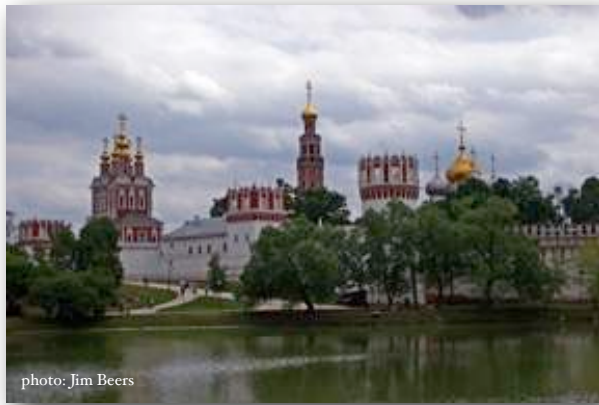


photo: Jim Beers

World War II memorials of all sizes abound in Russia, but few are larger or more poignant than **Poklonnaya Gora (Hill of Homage) and Victory Park**. The military history of the hill dates long before World War II, as its height above Moscow provided an unobstructed view of the city, emphasizing its strategic importance. In 1812, Napoleon stood with his troops on this hill and waited for the keys to the city to be delivered to him, only to lose thousands of troops to the harsh Russian winter on his retreat.

In the 1960s, a decision was made to move the Moscow triumphal arch to Poklonnaya Gora and make the hill an open-air museum. Only in the 1980s did the area become a monument to Russia's victory in World War II. Though the triumphal arch still stands, it is now accompanied by an obelisk with a statue of Nike, a monument of St. George (patron saint of Moscow) slaying the dragon, an Orthodox church, a mosque and a synagogue. All of these structures are dedicated to the memory of those who fought and died for Soviet victory in World War II, or the Great Patriotic War, as it is called by Russians. In 2005, President Vladimir Putin added to the memorial by installing 15 bronze pillars as a symbol of the Red Army's main fronts and naval forces during the war.

Tonight toast the journey during the festive farewell dinner.
Meals: B, L, D – *InterContinental Hotel or similar*

Day Ten, Saturday, October 17

Depart Moscow

Following breakfast, the tour concludes with transfers to the airport for international departures.
Meals: B

About Douglas Grimes

This journey may be accompanied and led by **Douglas Grimes**, President and Founder of MIR Corporation. Douglas' international explorations to this part of the world began in 1986 when he pioneered a goodwill volleyball exchange with "comrades" in the Soviet Union.

He has been exploring this region ever since. Douglas is a member of the Explorers Club and has made over 100 journeys throughout MIR's destinations for more than 30 years. He has witnessed nine manned Soyuz launches to the International Space Station at the Baikonur Russian space facility on the Kazakh steppe. He has also relished two opportunities to experience weightlessness on the Russian Zero-G cosmonaut training flight. Douglas pioneered this unusual journey and looks forward to sharing it with you.



Dates for 2020 - One Departure - Premier Series Special Tour

The land itinerary is scheduled to be operated on the following dates. Please note you need to depart the U.S. at least one day prior to the tour start date due to airline flight schedules.

October 8-17, 2020

Note: This special trip is timed to coincide with the scheduled launch of the Soyuz to the International Space Station, and the touring and internal flight schedules are tied to this event. Please keep in mind that if the launch date shifts, our tour dates will be adjusted accordingly. The Moscow touring program could be curtailed based on final flight times to/from Baikonur. Please refrain from purchasing non-refundable air tickets. Please also keep your schedule open at least two weeks before and after the scheduled dates for possible launch date shifts.

Package Prices

Special tour: 4-16 travelers, \$13,995** per person, double occupancy (includes internal air, subject to change)

Single supplement \$1,095

Tour Deposit – 20% of tour cost

Per person, double occupancy deposit \$2,800

Per person, single occupancy deposit \$3,000

**Cosmonaut training not included; call for prices. Optional training activities may require additional nights.

Tour Includes

- Accommodations as noted in itinerary.
- All meals starting with dinner on Day 1 until breakfast on final tour day.
- Restaurant tips for included meals.
- Arrival and departure airport transfers. MIR will arrange for all travelers to be met upon arrival and seen off on departure whether we make your air arrangements or not, provided you arrive and depart in Moscow on the tour start and end dates.
- Ground transportation throughout itinerary by private van or coach (size of vehicle depends on group size), and by internal air, Moscow-Baikonur-Moscow.
- Guided sightseeing tours and entrance fees as outlined in itinerary.
- Services of experienced, English-speaking local guides, drivers and other staff, including a MIR Tour Manager.
- Baggage handling, where available.
- Bottled water at group meals.
- Gratuities to local guides, drivers, porters and other service personnel.
- Complete pre-departure information including detailed packing list, reading list, *Touring with MIR* handbook with country-specific information, maps, and travel tips.
- Assistance booking your custom flight arrangements (on request; please note that international airfare is not included in the land tour cost).
- Customized visa application and instruction kit (please note, visa fees are not included in the tour price).
- Final document packet, including luggage tags, final updates, and more.



Not Included

- International airfare or taxes/fuel surcharges.
- Items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.).
- Gratuities to Tour Manager.
- Items of a personal nature (phone calls, email, laundry, alcohol, excess baggage, etc).
- Visa/passport fees, airport departure fees.
- Expenses incurred as a result of delay, modification or extension of a tour due to causes beyond MIR's control.
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance.

Interested in travel insurance?

To learn more about all the benefits of purchasing a Travel Guard travel insurance plan, please visit www.travelguard.com/mircorp or contact Travel Guard at 1.877.709.5596.

Important Notes: Is This Trip Right For You?

While the accommodations we utilize in Moscow are superior class and in Baikonur are tourist class, please keep in mind that some aspects of the tourism infrastructure in Baikonur, Kazakhstan are not up to the standards North American travelers expect. Services are improving in the region; however you may encounter problems with bureaucratic service, road conditions and availability and quality of public restrooms. This itinerary features a significant amount of touring on foot. Many streets and sidewalks are uneven, and some attractions are not designed for visitors, as they are working facilities. Museums and sites generally do not have elevators.

We believe that this program is designed to be as comfortable as possible for travel in this region. It is rated as **rigorous touring** because of the daily walking involved, the length of some bus rides and the overall shortcomings of the tourism infrastructure. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least a mile a day, keeping up with fellow travelers. Flexibility, a sense of humor and a willingness to accept changing schedules, local standards of amenities and services are essential components to the enjoyment of this trip.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this schedule is accurate. However, trip itineraries are always subject to change. We do our best to inform participants in advance of any changes, but, due to the nature of travel in Russia and Kazakhstan, this may not always be possible.

Are You Prepared?

A Travel Guard travel insurance plan can help cover your vacation investment, offset expenses from travel mishaps and provide you with emergency travel assistance. To learn more about all of the benefits of purchasing a Travel Guard travel insurance plan, please visit www.travelguard.com/mircorp

Please read the U.S. Department of State's Travel Advisory regarding travel to Russia:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/russia-travel-advisory.html>

Please read the U.S. Department of State's Travel Advisory regarding travel to Kazakhstan:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/kazakhstan-travel-advisory.html>



If you are not already enrolled in STEP, Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, a free service to enroll your trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate, please consider enrolling. For more information: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

Weather

Moscow is a wonderful city to visit any time of the year. Fall temperatures are mild, with temperatures ranging from the low 50's to mid 60's Fahrenheit. Rain is possible year round. **Kazakhstan** in the fall is warm and sunny; sunscreen, a sunhat and lip balm will be welcome. Loose, light-colored clothing will help you stay cool, and a light jacket or sweater is handy for evenings. As with traveling anywhere, it is best to bring layers of different weights and thickness to keep yourself comfortable.

Please remember, weather at all times of year has an element of the unpredictable. This information comes from weatherbase.com and is based on data from previous temperatures on record. It is always advisable to check with weatherbase.com closer to your departure date for current conditions and forecasts for the specific region you will be visiting.

International Airfare

Special note regarding air arrangements for this program: The dates of this program rely on the Soyuz launch date, and are therefore subject to change. Given the possibility of launch dates changing, MIR cautions travelers not to purchase non-refundable/non-changeable air tickets. Please note that MIR cannot be responsible for any expenses incurred due to purchasing such tickets. MIR can make your reservations and hold them until closer to the trip date to provide greater flexibility and minimize potential risks and expense. We also recommend that you keep your schedule open at least two weeks before and two weeks after the tour dates.

MIR's in-house, full-service air department is available to assist with your air travel needs. Check with MIR before booking air on your own, as we are happy to research and compare the best fares available through multiple channels. Airfare varies depending on a wide variety of factors, such as dates of travel and seasonality, seat availability, special airline promotions, how restrictive ticket changes are, how long the fares can be held without purchase, routing considerations such as stopovers, and more. Tour dates are based on the land tour only. Our preferred carriers for this tour are Lufthansa, Swiss Air, and Aeroflot, as they offer convenient itineraries and competitive rates from multiple cities across the U.S. to Western Russia.

Please call us at 800-424-7289 to discuss air options and routings for this program, and to request a quote for your specific plans and dates of travel. We will be happy to put together a no-obligation suggested air itinerary and estimate for you at your request.

Visas

At the time of writing, U.S. passport holders require one visa for this tour: Russian (double-entry). You may also need a visa for any additional country you fly via to join the tour.

An estimate of current visa costs for U.S. passport holders, based on standard processing time, is \$312. Your exact visa fees may differ as visa costs can depend on a number of factors, such as state of residence, processing time, and return shipping. Visa fees are always subject to change. At the time of writing, the Russian Embassy is offering U.S. passport-holders three-year multiple-entry visas (strongly recommended for this tour, to allow maximum flexibility with



launch date changes) at the same price as single- or double-entry visas (the \$312 estimated above). Travelers who need to expedite their processing may not have the same option of getting the multi-entry visa at the single-entry visa cost. Please call for information.

Standard visa processing in the Russian visa section is ten to fifteen days for this tour. Travelers should prepare to be without their passports for that amount of time. If you plan to travel extensively in the time leading up to your MIR tour, you may need to obtain a second valid passport or use expedited processing, depending on your plans. Please contact us with any questions you may have regarding the timeline for visa processing.

Extensive pre-tour paperwork is necessary to apply for this visa, which requires an overseas approval authorization to be issued prior to submission of your application materials to the Embassies/Consulates. A valid passport with six months validity from the end of the tour is also required.

In the past some travelers have made their own visa arrangements instead of using MIR's preferred provider for their visa processing; either using their own visas service or attempting to process directly with the embassies/consulates. We strongly recommend you discuss it with us before choosing an alternate visa processing method, to help avoid difficulties and visa problems. **In the event that you plan to process visas without going through MIR's preferred provider, please contact us first so we can pass you detailed instructions with critical trip-specific information.**

Pre- or Post-Tours

MIR can arrange for an extended program in St. Petersburg, Moscow, Eastern or Central Europe before or after your tour. Suggested extensions include:

St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg is often described as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Its miles of canals, laced together with graceful bridges set amidst 18th century buildings, have earned it the name "Venice of the North." Explore the Hermitage Museum and the grand estates of czars Peter and Catherine.

Also Nearby...

For other options to this region, you may want to check out:

Flexible Essential Trips – Classic Private Journeys

Essential Russia, 7 days. A compact and compelling survey of Russia's political capital, Moscow, and its culture capital, St. Petersburg, this tour communicates the character of Western Russia in a succinct and meaningful series of experiences.

Essential St. Petersburg 7 days. St. Petersburg, home of the czars and their courts, is a rich repository of extravagant palaces, brilliant museums and renowned theaters overflowing with music and dance. Its fashionable boulevards and serene canals glisten in the "White Nights" of summer and dazzle on sunny winter days.

Small Group Tours

Bulgaria & Romania: Frescoes & Fortresses, 16 days. Explore the complex history and fascinating culture of Bulgaria and Romania, two East European countries whose rugged terrain and consequent isolation have helped preserve their heritage. Discover the luminous frescoes



of the painted monasteries, breathe in the fragrance of the Valley of the Roses, and spend an afternoon visiting with villagers in a tiny Transylvanian town.

Belarus, Ukraine & Moldova, 14 days. Traverse a little known region that has changed hands from its earliest history. Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova are three of the least-frequented and least familiar countries in Europe. Time slowed drastically here after the devastation of WWII, but these beautiful countries are emerging from the shadows.

Treasures of the South Caucasus, 15 days. Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan share stunning mountain backdrops, powerful stone architecture and a strong code of hospitality. Georgia's renowned winemaking traditions, Azerbaijan's Zoroastrian and Islamic background, and Armenia's multitude of ancient churches combine to make this distinctive journey more than the sum of its parts.

Conditions of Participation

Your participation on a MIR Corporation trip is subject to the conditions contained in the 2020 Tour Reservation Form and Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement. Please read this document carefully and contact us with any questions.

Cancellation and Refund Policy

Payment Terms: Non-refundable deposits are accepted by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Final land payments may be made by check or credit card for reservations made directly with MIR. If booking through a travel agent, please contact your agent to find out what form of payment they accept. (MIR can accept final payment from travel agents by agency check only.) Airfares are subject to change until ticketed; payment policies vary by carrier.

If you cancel your trip please notify MIR in writing. Upon MIR's receipt of notice the following charges apply to land tours (policies for air tickets, custom group trips vary).

Scheduled MIR Special Tours

Cost of cancellation, if received:

121 or more days prior to departure-----deposit due or paid in full of \$2,800 or \$3,000

65-120 days prior to departure-----50% of the land tour cost

64 days prior to departure or after trip departure----no refund

References

We encourage you to speak directly with satisfied past travelers. Please request a list of references.

Why MIR?

Regional knowledge is crucial to the success of any trip to our corner of the world. MIR combines detailed information about geography and infrastructure, history and art, language and culture, with the depth of knowledge that comes only from decades of regional experience. You may wonder how we differ from other tour operators...

Destination Specialization

MIR focuses exclusively on the exceptional region at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. This area has been our overriding passion since 1986; we don't do the rest of the world. Our



hard-earned expertise gained over the last three decades can take you from end to end of the largest country in the world – Russia – and to all of its neighbors. We specialize in travel to Siberia, the Silk Route, St. Petersburg & Beyond. Our destinations include: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, the Baltics (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), the Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia), Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), Turkey, Mongolia, China, Tibet, and Central/East Europe (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia).



30 Years of Experience

A travel company doesn't last more than 30 years in the business without a solid track record. MIR has helped thousands of individuals achieve their travel goals. Our dedication and experience have earned us their trust and the trust of many well-respected institutions. Today MIR is the preferred tour operator for museum, alumni and special interest organizations across the country.

Recommended & Respected

MIR has twice been rated one of the "Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth" by *National Geographic Adventure*. Several of our tours have won awards in top travel publications, such as *Outside* magazine and *National Geographic Traveler*. Our trips have been featured in books such as *Riding the Hula Hula to the Arctic Ocean* and *1,000 Places to See Before You Die*.

More Questions?

Please feel free to call us with questions at 1-800-424-7289, 8:30am-5:30pm Pacific Time.

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