

Moscow, Red Square

# Russian Highlights & the Baltics

## Small group tour - 16 days/15 nights

This leisurely, well-paced, locally escorted, Small Group Tour of the capitals of Russia and the Baltics offers longer hotel stays, with free time to explore independently. To experience more of Russia, why not spend a few days before your tour exploring the unspoiled countryside of the Golden Ring towns (see pages 8 & 9).

### Inclusions

- Locally escorted in **English only**
- 15 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4 and 4.5-star hotels
- Meals - 1 lunch at Café Pushkin, 2 dinners
- Arrival/departure transfers throughout by car
- Business class Sapsan train Moscow-St. Petersburg
- Economy class train St. Petersburg-Tallinn
- Transportation by modern A/C coach or minibus Tallinn-Riga-Vilnius with driver and private guide
- Sightseeing as specified with local English speaking guides
- Moscow - City tour with St. Basil's Cathedral, Eliseevsky food store, Metro, Kremlin, Cathedral, Armoury Museum
- St. Petersburg - City tour with Church on Spilt Blood, Peter & Paul Fortress, Fabergé Museum, Hermitage Museum, Peterhof Palace & Park
- Walking tours of Tallinn, Riga & Vilnius; Rundale Palace & Trakai by private vehicle

### Your hotels

- **MOSCOW** - Metropol
- **ST. PETERSBURG** - Angletterre
- **TALLINN** - Merchant's House
- **RIGA** - Semarah Metropole (contemporary room)
- **VILNIUS** - Artis Centrum

*Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.*



### Day 1 Sun. Moscow

Arrive Moscow. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Your Moscow guide will join you for dinner this evening to go through your program. Overnight Moscow. **D**

### Day 2 Mon. Moscow

After breakfast, commence your panoramic city tour of Moscow. You will also visit St. Basil's Cathedral and have some time to browse through the opulent Eliseevsky food store. A guided tour of the most impressive stations of the Moscow Metro follows. Overnight Moscow. **B**

### Day 3 Tue. Moscow

This morning you visit the Kremlin grounds and one of its cathedrals, followed by a tour of the State Armoury Museum with its unrivalled collection of the tsars' treasures. Enjoy a leisurely lunch at Café Pushkin, acclaimed for its classic Russian cuisine and 19th century ambience. The remainder of the day is free. Overnight Moscow. **BL**

### Day 4 Wed. Moscow to St. Petersburg

Morning free. Around midday your local guide will accompany you to the rail station for your 4-hour trip to St. Petersburg. Upon arrival in St. Petersburg, your local guide will meet you and transfer you to your hotel. You will be joined by your guide for dinner this evening. Overnight St. Petersburg. **BD**

### Day 5 Thu. St. Petersburg

Today's city tour of this former imperial capital includes a visit to the Church on Spilt Blood, reminiscent of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow. You will also visit Peter & Paul Fortress and the exquisite Fabergé Museum at the Shuvalov Palace which houses nine Imperial eggs. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

### Day 6 Fri. St. Petersburg

Morning visit to the Hermitage Museum. You may stay on after your guided tour as your afternoon is free. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**



Peterhof





St. Petersburg, Hermitage Museum – Three Graces

**Day 7 Sat. St. Petersburg**

After breakfast, travel to the Gulf of Finland to visit the magnificent Peterhof Palace and park with its spectacular statues and cascading fountains. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

**Day 8 Sun. St. Petersburg**

Today is free to explore independently or you may wish to take an optional excursion to the town of Pushkin, also known as Tsar’s Village and visit Catherine’s Palace, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture. Overnight St. Petersburg. **B**

**Day 9 Mon. St. Petersburg to Tallinn**

You will be transferred to the rail station to board your early morning express train to Tallinn – a journey of 7 hours. Upon arrival Tallinn you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight Tallinn.

**Day 10 Tue. Tallinn**

After breakfast, enjoy a morning walking tour of medieval Tallinn. You will see the city walls, Toompea Castle, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the Upper and Lower Old Towns. Your afternoon is free. Overnight Tallinn. **B**

**Day 11 Wed. Tallinn to Riga**

After breakfast, you will travel by air-conditioned vehicle, accompanied by an English speaking guide, to Riga – a journey of approximately 4.5 hrs. On your way you have a tour of the seaside town of Parnu. Overnight Riga. **B**

**Day 12 Thu. Riga**

After breakfast, you have a walking tour of Riga’s Old Town, rich in different architectural styles. Riga has been a multicultural town throughout its 800-year history. Afternoon free. Overnight Riga. **B**

**Day 13 Fri. Riga to Vilnius**

Morning checkout and departure for Vilnius, accompanied by your local guide. Before leaving Latvia, you visit the magnificent 18th century Rundale Palace, designed by Francesco Rastrelli, the architect of St. Petersburg’s Winter Palace. In Lithuania, stop at the Hill of Crosses, decorated with over 100,000 crosses donated by Catholic pilgrims. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

**Day 14 Sat. Vilnius**

This morning, you have a walking tour of medieval Vilnius. The Old Town is one of the most extensive and beautiful in Europe and is home to Vilnius University, founded in 1579. The student population successfully counterbalances the influx of visitors, resulting in a vibrant, more authentic atmosphere. Your afternoon is free to explore further. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

**Day 15 Sun. Vilnius**

Today you travel to Trakai, the medieval capital of Lithuania, to visit beautiful Trakai Castle, situated on an island in Lake Galve. It is the only lake castle in Europe. Overnight Vilnius. **B**

**Day 16 Mon. Vilnius**

Tour services end today after breakfast with your departure transfer. Or you may wish to continue your journey to Poland. **B**

**Tour prices & departures**

Prices shown per person in AUD. Sunday departures Jun-Aug 2018.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
3 Jun	6536	9195
29 Jul, 26 Aug	5991	8107

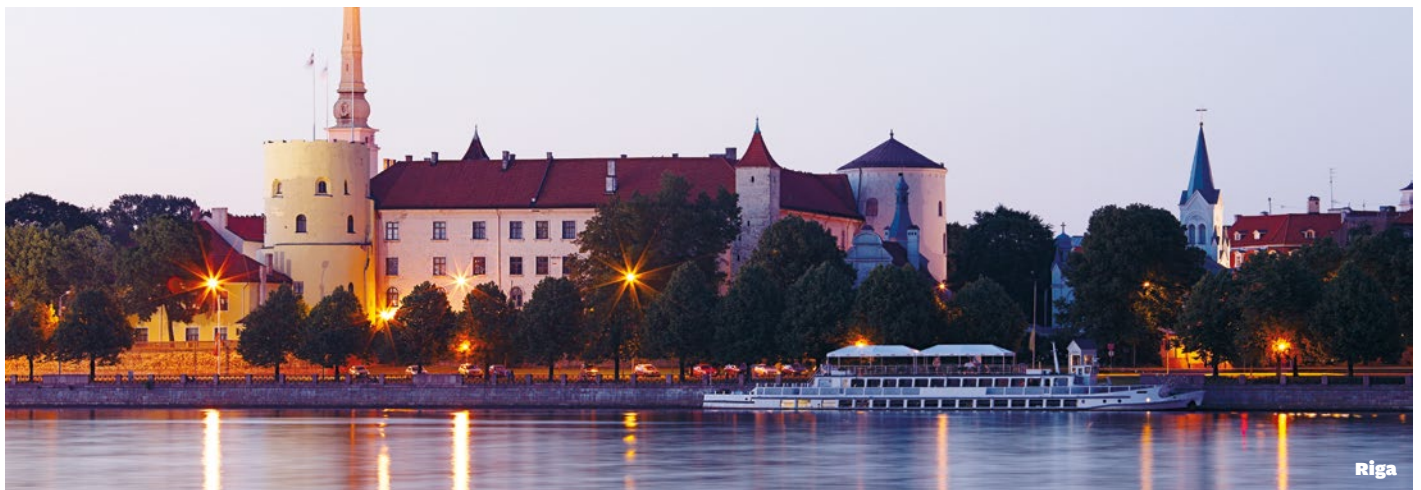
■ Tour is guaranteed with minimum 2 guests. Maximum capacity – 15 guests.



Fabergé Eggs



Riga, House of Blackheads



Riga