

RED OCTOBER COMPANY

Moscow - Suzdal - Vladimir, Russia, 2009
6-day Excursion Program (Sample)
Take an Optional 3-Day St. Petersburg Tour.

**Day 1, June 26, Friday****Arrival in Moscow**

- 01:00 pm **1-st couple. Private transfer to the hotel Park Hyatt (with guide's assistance).**
 03:30 pm **2-d couple. Private transfer to the hotel Park Hyatt (with guide's assistance).**

Day 2, June 27, Saturday**10:00 am Meet with English speaking guide at the hotel lobby.**

- Departure for the panoramic sightseeing tour of Moscow (by van), during which you will visit the historic part of the city **the Cathedral of Christ the Savior** - an impressive sight with a tragic history – blown up by Stalin, and was only recently built anew as a symbol of revival of **Russian Orthodoxy; and the Alexander Garden, Manezh square**, and enjoy the **incredible views of the Kremlin from Sophia embankment and the monument to Peter the Great, The White House**. You will also have chance see some of the other magnificent and world known places of Moscow including **the New Maiden Convent** (without getting in), **Moscow State University**, which situated in one of the key Stalin style buildings which dominate Moscow skyline, **the Sparrow Hills, Poklonnaya hill, Triumphal Arch, Kutuzov Avenue, the world-famous Bolshoi Theatre** - the brightest cultural gem in the crown of Moscow attractions, **Boulevard ring, Theatre Square, Tverskaya Street and Pushkin Square**.

Time for lunch (on your own).

00:30 am

02:00 pm

Drive to the Kremlin.

02:45 pm -

04:30 pm

The guided tour of **the Kremlin with inside visit to the Assumption Cathedral**- the historical center of Moscow. The Kremlin has always been perceived as a symbol of power and might of the Russian land. Each era of the Russian history left its architectural mark on the Kremlin. Within the Kremlin walls there are many architectural monuments, churches, cathedrals, museums, etc.

04:45 pm

Stroll through **the Red Square**; view the enormous **GUM shopping mall** – a stunning architectural masterpiece of the late 19th century (max. 30 minutes)
 Short walk back to the hotel (15 minutes' walk)

Return to the hotel. Overnight.

05:15 pm

Day 3, June 28, Sunday**10:00 am Meet with English speaking guide at the hotel lobby.****10:30 am Departure for the Tretyakov Gallery.**

The guided tour of **the Tretyakov Gallery** - founded by a Russian millionaire and benefactor of the 19th century Pavel Tretyakov the Tretyakov gallery is a unique museum of Russian art beginning from the 12th century icon painting through to the 20th century masters such as Leningrad, Malevich and Kandinsky. It displays an excellent collection of Russian realism, impressionism and art nouveau masterpieces absolutely different from anything you have ever seen in the world giving a wonderful insight into the Russian history, the Russian mentality and the Russian soul.

Time for lunch (on your own).

01:00 pm

02:30 pm

Metro-tour - history of its foundation and visit to the most gorgeous stations decorated with sculptures, glass, colored marble and bronze chandeliers.

03:30 pm

Walking along Arbat Street - one of the oldest Moscow's thoroughfares was once the quarter of court artisans, which in the 19th century became the district of the aristocracy, while a century later it became a favorite shopping street.

Drive back to the hotel.

05:30 pm

Return to the hotel. Overnight.

Day 4, June 29, Monday

09:00 am **Meet with English speaking guide at the hotel lobby.**

Check-out Drive to **Suzdal**.

00:30 am Arrival.

Time for lunch (on your own)

01:30 pm Departure for the sightseeing tour. In the XIth century Suzdal was a large city in the northeast of the powerful Kiev state, in the middle of the XIth century Suzdal reached the peak of its development: it became the capital of the Rostov-Suzdal principedom, a large center of trade and crafts.

- Visit **to the Kremlin**. The compositional center of the Suzdal Kremlin is the cathedral of the Birth of the Virgin of the XIIth century. The southern and western gates of the cathedral, executed in the technique of gilding through fire are a unique monument of arts and crafts of the ancient Russia. The ensemble of the Kremlin also includes the Archbishop's Chambers of the XV-XVIIth centuries, the oldest monument of civil architecture of Suzdal; the belfry (1635) famous for its chiming clock.

- Visit to **the Savior-Evfimiy monastery**. In 1352 the prince of Suzdal and Nizhniy Novgorod Boris Konstantinovich founded the Savior monastery later named the Savior-Evfimiy in honor of the first abbot of the monastery.

04:30 pm Drive to the Hotel "Pushkarskaya Sloboda". **Check-in**.

Overnight.

Hotel description:

The Pushkarskaya Sloboda Hotel is located in one of the oldest cities of Russia - Suzdal, on the bank of the Kamenka river. The most famous attractions of Suzdal are situated not far from the hotel. The main feature of the Pushkarskaya Sloboda Hotel is its architectural ensemble, which combines the buildings of the XIXth century with the pieces of wooden architecture. Staying here, the guests can enjoy Russian traditions and spirit.

The hotel is glad to accommodate its guests in originally-designed rooms of different categories, offer them first-class service in the best traditions of Russian hospitality and a range of amenities, which will satisfy both tourists and business guests.

Day 5, June 30, Tuesday

Breakfast at the hotel.

10:00 am **Meet with English speaking guide at the hotel lobby.**

Check-out. Drive to **Vladimir**.

11:30 am Arrival. Sightseeing tour:

The history of the town goes back over one thousand years. It was founded in 990s by Prince Vladimir on the bank of the river Klyasma. The rise of Vladimir began under Andrey Bogolubsky, the son of Yuri Dolgoruky who founded Moscow.

01:00 pm **Time for lunch (on your own)**

The continuation of Vladimir city tour - you will visit the XII century monuments - the Uspensky and Dmitrovsky Cathedrals (one of the oldest Russian functioning churches), view the famous Golden Gates.

03:30 pm Drive to the hotel "**Russian Village**". Check-in. Overnight.

Hotel description:

This is a great place. As the name suggests, it is a themed hotel, made out to resemble an Old Russian village. The hotel is a gated complex consisting of two restaurants--a big lodge-type dining room and a smaller, less formal one serving shashlik and beer--and three two-story "cottages," each with eight guest rooms. The owners have done a nice job of keeping to the village theme, with Russian folk art on the walls and very nice woodwork in the moldings of the guest rooms, free folk dance shows in the main restaurant, and a pond with swimming ducks. The rooms are clean; contain nice little amenities like shampoo and soap kits, shoeshine, etc.

Day 6, July 01, Wednesday

Breakfast at the hotel.

FREE MORNING.

Check-out.

Meet with English speaking guide at the hotel lobby.

10:30 am Drive back to Moscow (170 km – 3 hours drive)

01:30 pm Arrival in Moscow.(Depends on the traffic on the speed road)

Time for lunch (on your own)

Take an Optional 3-Day St. Petersburg Tour.

02:30 pm Drive to Leningradsky Railway Station.

04:30 pm Train to St.Petersburg. Meet with your RO Guide. Start **3-Day St. Petersburg Tour**.