**Mos-Tour, LLC**

**Tour and Travel Company**

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**The Islamic Heritage of Russia**

**Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Kazan**

8 days / 7 nights

Three Russian cities have at one time or other claimed the status of capital. Moscow – the ancient capital of Muscovy, and the capital of the Soviet Union and modern Russia. Saint Petersburg, often called the “Venice of the North”, which was the capital of the Russian Empire from 1703 to 1918. And Kazan, the capital of the Khanate of Kazan until the city was finally conquered by Ivan the Terrible in 1552. Founded more than a thousand years ago, it is a meeting point of East and West and is now a major commercial city, with the country’s largest shopping center. Each with its own unique atmosphere and culture, these three great cities have strong historical links, and it is easier now to travel from one to the other than ever before, with fast rail connections and flights.

Russia is a secular country, guaranteeing freedom of religion in its constitution. There are few countries in the world where citizens of different faiths coexist and interact so easily and freely. The followers of Islam are the second largest community in the country. This fact is reflected in the history, culture, life and appearance of the three main cities of Russia. Discover these three historical capitals of Russia from a new angle on this exclusive tour!

**Cost in USD**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pax + FOC** | **20+1** | **25+1** | **30+2** | **35+2** |
| **P.p. in DBL/TWN sharing** | **$ 839** | **$ 815** | **$ 810** | **$ 800** |
| **SINGLE supplement** | **$ 285** | **$ 285** | **$ 285** | **$ 285** |

**Cost in Euro**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pax + FOC** | **20+1** | **25+1** | **30+2** | **35+2** |
| **P.p. in DBL/TWN sharing** | **€ 720** | **€ 695** | **€ 699** | **€ 685** |
| **SINGLE supplement** | **€ 245** | **€ 245** | **€ 245** | **€ 245** |

**HOTELS**

St. Petersburg: Grand Hotel Oktiabrskaya 4\* or equivalent

Kazan: Bilyar Palace hotel 4\* or equivalent

Moscow: Vega Izmailovo Hotel 4\* or equivalent

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I**NCLUDED** | **NOT INCLUDED** |
| 7 nights’ accommodation in 4\* hotelsAll breakfasts and lunches according to the program (halal meals)All transfers and transport for the tours in the program;Licensed guides for all sites on the program;Tickets for flight from St.Petersburg to Kazan (economy class)Tickets for flight from Kazan to Moscow (economy class)Entrance fees: All sites according to the program  | Flights to RussiaMeals & drinks, except mentioned in the programOptional activities/upgrades/extrasPersonal expensesAny activities not mentioned in the tour description |

**Day 1: Saint Petersburg**

Arrival in St. Petersburg, where you will be met at the airport. Transfer from airport to the hotel. After checking in you will have the rest of the day/ evening free.

**Day 2: Saint Petersburg**

Breakfast in the hotel. A **bus tour of the most important sights** of the city, including the Winter Palace and Palace Square, Nevsky Prospect, Kazan Cathedral, Spilled Blood Temple, Vasilievsky Island and St. Isaac's Square and Cathedral.

You will also **see the famous Cathedral Mosque**, which took over 15 years to finish, and only appeared in its intended form in 2015. The Cathedral Mosque of St. Petersburg is the northernmost mosque in the world.

Halal lunch in city café.

After lunch: **visit to the State Hermitage**. One of the greatest palaces and art museums in the world, it contains thousands of priceless works of art from around the world, including Islamic art, including ceramics, jewelry and archaeological artifacts, weapons, armor and much more.

Return to the hotel. Free evening.

**Day 3: Saint Petersburg**

Breakfast at the hotel. Сheck-out from the hotel.

**Visit to Catherine’s Palace and Park**

Pushkin, formerly known as Tsarskoe Selo, or the Tsars’ Village, was the summer residence of the Romanov tsars. The palace, built in the 18th century and housed in a magnificent landscaped park, is considered to be one of the most beautiful of the royal palaces around Saint Petersburg. As you walk around the stately rooms of the palace and admire the wealth of fine art, antique furniture and superb baroque interiors, it is hard to appreciate the scale of the devastation that the palace suffered during the Second World War. The whole palace has been restored to its pre-Revolutionary splendor, including the legendary Amber Room, a gift from the Prussian King to Peter the Great, which was removed by the Nazis and had never been seen since.

Halal lunch in city café.

After lunch: transfer to Pulkovo airport. Flight to Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan (2 hrs 10 min).

Arrival in Kazan, transfer to hotel and check-in.

**Day 4: Kazan**

A **bus tour of the main attractions of Kazan**: the old Tatar Quarter, the open-air ethnographic museum Tugan-Avylym, the Mardzhani mosque - the oldest functioning mosque in the city, built during the reign of Catherine the Great.

**Guided tour of the Kremlin**, the Suyumbike Tower, Qol-Sharif mosque and the embankment of the Kazanka River (that offers panoramic views of the city and its suburbs).

Halal lunch in city café with **master class in Tatar cooking**.

Discover the secrets of the national dishes; the cooking is accompanied by the story of the food’s origin. The cooked food will be served for the guests.

**"Tatar costume" master class**.

You will get acquainted with the features of national clothes, try on the costumes of khan and khan’s wife, Princess Syuyumbike and rich townswomen. Bright photos in unusual outfits make a great memory to keep your impressions for a long time.

**The folklore show “Zachariah”** presents you the life of the 5 ethnicities of the Volga region: Tatars, Kryashens, Mordovians, Udmurts and Chuvashs. They will tell you about the features of each costume, sing songs in different languages to the accompaniment of local instruments. You can take part in one of three competitions that were held at celebrations in the 14th century villages.

Free evening.

**Day 5: Kazan**

Breakfast in the hotel. **Bus excursion to the Great Bulgar**. The Bulgar Historical and Architectural Museum-Reserve is the northernmost monument of medieval Muslim architecture in the world, included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, a unique and only example of Bulgar-Tatar architecture of the 13th-14th centuries. During the tour you will see the largest printed Quran in the world as well. You can also visit the famous White Mosque, a modern architectural monument, which for the similarity of the white lines of the building is called the Russian Taj Mahal.

Halal lunch in city café.

Return to Kazan. Free evening.

**Day 6: Moscow**

Breakfast in the hotel. Airport transfer. Departure to Moscow.

Arrival in Moscow, where your guide will meet you. Transfer to the hotel and check-in.

**Bus tour of the main attractions** of the city. Moscow, as the capital of Russia, a state at the junction of Europe and Asia, combines the features of these two continents. Here, the European order and the chaos of the eastern bazaar are equally divided. According to the tour program, we will visit Zamoskvorechye, the historical Muslim district (where even the names of streets and lanes still speak of that), housing the oldest mosque in Moscow. Then you will see such attractions as Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, the Kremlin Embankment, the Bolshoi Theater, ride the cable car from Luzhniki to the Sparrow Hills observation deck and see Moscow State University main building.

Return to hotel. Lunch in the hotel.

***Optional add-on tour (10 USD p.p.)*** of the most beautiful stations of the Moscow Metro: each of them is unique, designed to demonstrate the achievements of Soviet engineering and show the bright future that lay ahead of the Soviet people.

Return to the hotel. Free evening

**Day 7: Moscow**

Breakfast in the hotel. **Tour of the Moscow Kremlin**, including entrance to the cathedrals. You will see the medieval walls, the giant Tsar Cannon and Tsar Bell, the royal palaces and the bell tower of Ivan the Great, which for a long time was the tallest building in the city, as well as the 15th and 16th century cathedrals, where generations of Russian tsars were married are crowned and where many of them are buried. As the official residence of the President of Russia, the Kremlin is still the center of political power in Russia.

Halal lunch in café at the Moscow Cathedral Mosque.

The tour continues with a **visit to the Moscow Cathedral Mosque** - the largest mosque in Europe. Here you can visit the unique Museum of Islam where you will find the most ancient Quran preserved in Moscow. You will also be offered a master class at the Center for Arabic Calligraphy, where everyone can, for example, write their own name with a master calligrapher.

Return to the hotel. Free day and evening.

**Day 8: Moscow**

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport. Departure to home.