



RUSSIA & the BALTICS 2022

MAY 25 - JUNE 8

A remarkable journey through the magnificent capitals of four countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia. The journey provides a personal and up-close glimpse at the fascinating and complex histories of this region.

MAY 25 ••••

Arrival in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. Welcome dinner. Stay in Tallinn for 2 nights.

MAY 26 ••••

View Peter the Great's Baroque palace, the residence of President of Estonia, and the former and present locations of the Bronze Soldier. Appreciate the charm of Tallinn's Old Town including its best-preserved medieval buildings in Europe. Learn about Eastern Orthodox Church including its architecture.

MAY 27 ••••

Tallinn → Riga. Fly to the capital of Latvia. View the outskirts of Riga. Explore Central Riga (Central Market). Stay in Riga for 2 nights.

MAY 28 ••••

Explore the historic old town center of Riga. Admire Europe's best collection of Art-Nouveau buildings. Visit the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia and the Freedom Monument.

MAY 29 ••••

Riga → Vilnius. Drive to the capital of Lithuania. En route, we visit the Hill of Crosses, an interesting pilgrimage site that testifies to the Lithuanians' faith, and explore Trakai Castle, a fairytale castle on an island. Stay in Vilnius for 2 nights.

MAY 30 ••••

Visit Europe's biggest baroque old city area in Vilnius. Gediminas Castle. Gate of Dawn. Saint Anne's Church. Freedom Square. Museum of Genocide Victims inside a former KGB building.

MAY 31 ••••

Vilnius → Moscow. Fly to the capital of the world's largest country with 11 time zones. Meet with President of the Moscow Society of the Deaf. Then, we do a tour of People's Palaces, which is the Moscow Metro stations. After dinner, we visit the Red Square "after dark." Stay in Moscow for 4 nights.

JUNE 1 • • •

Explore the heart of Moscow. Go inside the Kremlin and view its palaces, cathedrals, and park. Walk on Red Square and enter Saint Basil's Cathedral, Lenin's Mausoleum and the GUM department store. Stroll through Park Zaryad'ye, which is on the site of the demolished Rossiya Hotel. In the evening, we experience a Russian banya.

JUNE 2 • • •

White House. Novodevichy Monastery and Cemetery. Muzeon Park of the Arts (also known as Fallen Monument Park). Peter the Great Memorial. Sparrow Hills. Stalin's Seven Sisters (skyscrapers). Moscow City, the international business center. Free time in the evening.

JUNE 3 • • •

Via commuter train, we travel an hour out of Moscow to visit Sergiyev Posad, which is an UNESCO world heritage site. Return to Moscow before dinner time. Free time in the evening.

JUNE 4 • • •

Moscow → Saint Petersburg. Take high speed train to the cultural capital of Russia. See the First Cabin of Peter the Great. Explore the Peter and Paul Fortress, the site of final resting place of nearly all of the Romanovs, Russia's last ruling dynasty. After dinner, we embark on a cruise of the canals where St. Petersburg got its nickname 'Venice of the North.' Stay in St. Petersburg for 4 nights.

JUNE 5 • • •

Faberge Museum. The Bronze Horseman. St. Isaac's Cathedral. The Admiralty. Alexander Column. The Hermitage. Winter Palace. Stroll along Nevsky Prospekt, the main street of the capital.

JUNE 6 • • •

Catherine Palace in Tsarskoe Selo. See the beautiful castle which formerly housed the first Russian School for the Deaf, then visit the Academy for the Deaf in Pavlovsk. Enjoy a Russian dinner before returning to St. Petersburg.

JUNE 7 • • •

Have some warm Pyshechnaya donuts with local coffee. Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood. Lenrezerv, also known as the Leningrad Blockade Museum. Peterhof, the summer palace of Peter the Great, and view its spectacular fountains and gardens. Return to the city via Meteor hydrofoil boat. Farewell dinner.

JUNE 8 • • •

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight back home.

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\$500 deposit per person is required to reserve space. The availability of space is based on a first come, first serve basis. 100% of the balance is required 90 days before the first day of the tour.

\$4,150
per person /double occupancy

15 DAYS

SMALL GROUP 8 - 14

TOUR LEADER: Dan Brubaker • dan@handson.travel • 520-385-5411

WHAT'S INCLUDED??

- 14 nights in 3-star or 4-star accommodations.
- 17 meals: Breakfast (14), Dinner (3)
- Services of a deaf Tour Leader on call 24 hours a day.
- Services of local deaf and/or hearing guides.
- All transportation expenses.
- All admission fees for attractions and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Russian invitation letter. Required for Russian tourist visa.
- Most tips, except for your Tour Leader.
- Informative travel preparation packet.
- Pre-tour and/or post-tour itinerary consultation.
- \$100 discount per person on your next regular tour.

WHAT'S EXCLUDED?

- Domestic and/or international airfares.
- All other meals not mentioned in the itinerary and personal expenses.
- Single entry Russian tourist visa.
- Any COVID-19 related tests.
- Travel insurance.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

- EXTRA COSTS which will be added to the invoice.
 - \$550 for 2 internal flights and 1 train fare (Tallinn > Riga, Vilnius > Moscow and Moscow > Saint Petersburg)
 - \$160 for single entry Russian visa fee (plus processing fees)
- Tour begins in Tallinn, Estonia and ends in Saint Petersburg, Russia
- Tour will be confirmed when we meet the minimum number of participants.
- When the tour is confirmed, additional deposits/payments may be required.
- There will be limited airport pick up and drop off windows at the start and end of the tour. Early/late arrivals and early/late departures outside of pick up or drop off windows are not included.
- Substantial amount of walking expected during the tour. Appropriate physical fitness is necessary.

- Please consult the most recent version of the HOT terms and conditions.
<https://handson.travel/resources/terms/>
- Hands on Travel recommends that you purchase a travel insurance plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. To learn more, please view the following link:
<https://handson.travel/resources/protection/>
- **Tour itinerary and price are subject to change.**