

# BELARUS, RUSSIA AND FINLAND

12 days  
11 nights

3  
countries

travel type  
Cultural



## DESCRIPTION

### ● Day 1. Minsk (D)

Arrival to Minsk, the capital of Belarus. Bus transfer to the hotel. Welcome dinner and overnight in Minsk.

### ● Day 2. Minsk (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. City tour including the main Independence and Victory avenues, the Upper Town with the City Hall, the St. Spirit Cathedral, the temples and monasteries, the old narrow streets of the Trinity Suburb. Lunch at restaurant. Afternoon visit of “the Island of Tears” a memorial set up in 1988 to commemorate lost Belarusian soldiers, the Victory Monument and the National Library. Overnight in Minsk.

### ● Day 3. Minsk – Nesvizh – Mir – Moscow (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Nesvizh (100km from Minsk), a former residence of the Radvil family. Nesvizh sightseeing tour, including the Palace and Castle Ensemble founded in the 16th century and built by Jan Maria Bernardoni, Corpus Dei Roman Catholic church built also by Bernardoni, a patrimonial burial-vault for the Radvil family, Slutsk Gate, the Town Hall, Castle Gate Tower, Benedictine monastery. Lunch at restaurant. Continue to drive to Mir. Sightseeing tour, including 15th century’s Castle of Mir which offers a unique example of architecture of this period. The Castle has features of the late Gothic, Renaissance, defensive and palace architecture. Transfer back to Minsk. Transfer to the train station. Departure by overnight train to Moscow.

### ● Day 4. Moscow – Kremlin (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning city tour of Moscow to see its main historic architectural and cultural monuments (approx. 3 h.) During the tour you will visit Vorobyevi Hills where you will get an incredible view of the city, you will proceed to Moscow State University which is an example of architecture from the time of Stalin, the Diplomatic Village, Triumphal Arch and much more. The tour will be finished at the Red Square, the so-called heart of the capital. Lunch at restaurant.

Afternoon visit of Kremlin and its cathedrals (2 h.) Moscow Kremlin – one of the largest and most beautiful architectural ensembles in the world, which includes visits of Archangel's and Annunciation Cathedrals, the Armory, seeing an exhibition in the Assumption belfry and admire the Tsar Bell and the Tsar Cannon, famous masterpieces of the Russian casting. Overnight in Moscow.

### ● Day 5. Moscow – Sergiev Posad – Moscow Metro and Arbat (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Sergiev Possad (70 km from Moscow, approx. 6 h) – the city founded around the sacred place of the Russian land and the World Cultural Heritage sight – the Trinity Sergius Lavra, which is Trinity Sergius Lavra monastery named respected Russian saint Sergius. Transfer back to Moscow. Afternoon continues with discovering other highlights of Moscow – its famous Metro and Arbat street (approx. 3 h.) This tour introduces the history and architecture of the Metro subway system and includes travels by Metro to see the most famous stations that are uniquely designed with decorative elements including mosaics, statues and marble staircases. The tour proceed to Old Arbat street, one of Moscow's oldest streets. The street has gone from being the headquarters of Ivan the Terrible's secret police to the center of aristocratic life in Moscow in the 18th century to finally being the center of the Russian bohemian life. Overnight in Moscow.

### ● Day 6. Moscow – St. Petersburg (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the train station. Departure by speed train "Sapsan" to St. Petersburg (approx. 4h). Arrival and transfer to the hotel in St. Petersburg. Lunch at restaurant. Afternoon panoramic city tour of St. Petersburg (approx. 3 h.), also called as "Northern Venice", to see the famous Nevsky Prospect, the main street of the City, the Kazan Cathedral, the Admiralty with its gilded top, the largest Church in St. Petersburg – the Blood Church and stop by the ensembles of Palace Sq. with Winter Palace, Hermitage and Alexander Column and Mariinsky Palace. Visit the Peter and Paul Fortress (approx. 1, 5 h.) – the oldest construction in Saint Petersburg and put up for fortification purposes but never been attacked. Founded by Peter the Great, who himself took part in the construction of the building, enjoy the beauty of one of the world's great architectural masterpieces, the golden Peter and Paul Cathedral. Overnight in St. Petersburg.

### ● Day 7. St. Petersburg (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning visit of St. Isaac's Cathedral (approx. 1,5 h.): the largest Church in Russia and one of the finest architectural works and capable accommodate about 10,000 people. Lunch at restaurant. Afternoon visit to the Hermitage (approx. 3 h.), one of the largest and most important art museums in the world. Its art collections include more than 3,000,000 masterpieces and represent the development of world culture and art from the Stone Age to the 20th Century. Overnight in St. Petersburg.

### ● Day 8. St. Petersburg – Peterhof – Tsarskoye Selo (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Excursion to Peterhof, the former summer residence of Russian tsars near St. Petersburg (29 km from St. Petersburg). The "Russian Versailles" is known for its elegant gardens, magnificent Castles and numerous fountains and cascades. Lunch at restaurant. Excursion to Tsarskoye Selo (Pushkin) and visit the Catherine Palace with the legendary Amber Room. Tsarskoye Selo is Rastrelli's masterpiece and one of the best examples of Russian baroque, which include Peterhof with the finest residences Tsar of Russia. Overnight in St. Petersburg.

### ● Day 9. St. Petersburg – boat tour (B, D)

Breakfast at hotel. Morning boat trip in Neva River and canals (approx. 1,5 h.) Getting around St

Petersburg by boat is one of the best ways to enjoy a romantic sightseeing in the city of rivers and canals. The combination of fascinating architecture and water in St. Petersburg, as well as in Venice, has a special charm. Free time in city. Dinner in the city centre with folk show. Overnight in St. Petersburg.

#### ● Day 10. St. Petersburg – Helsinki (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Departure to Helsinki by bus (390 km from St. Petersburg). Stop at the Vyborg city. Vyborg was founded in 16th century by Swedes. City is situated about 200 km from St. Petersburg. During the walking city tour you will see an old Round tower, the houses of Northern Modern epoch and visit some of charming churches, the Vyborg castle – former Swedish stronghold and enjoy the city view from the Olaf's Tower. Also you will have a walk in Mon Repos, one of the most spacious English landscape gardens in Eastern Europe. Lunch at restaurant. Drive to Helsinki, the lively Finnish capital, located at the crossroads of Western and Eastern culture. Afternoon Helsinki sightseeing tour takes us around the harbours, up central Mannerheim Street and by the Parliament Building, the Finlandia Hall, market square, and the Sibelius Monument and for a visit at the famous Church-in the-Rock. Overnight in Helsinki.

#### ● Day 11. Helsinki (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Visit at Suomenlinna Fortress, built in the second half of the 18th century by Sweden on a group of islands located at the entrance of Helsinki's harbour. This fortress is an especially interesting example of European military architecture of the time. Lunch at restaurant. Transfer back to Helsinki. Free time in the city. Overnight in Helsinki.

#### ● Day 12. Helsinki (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the airport. Departure.