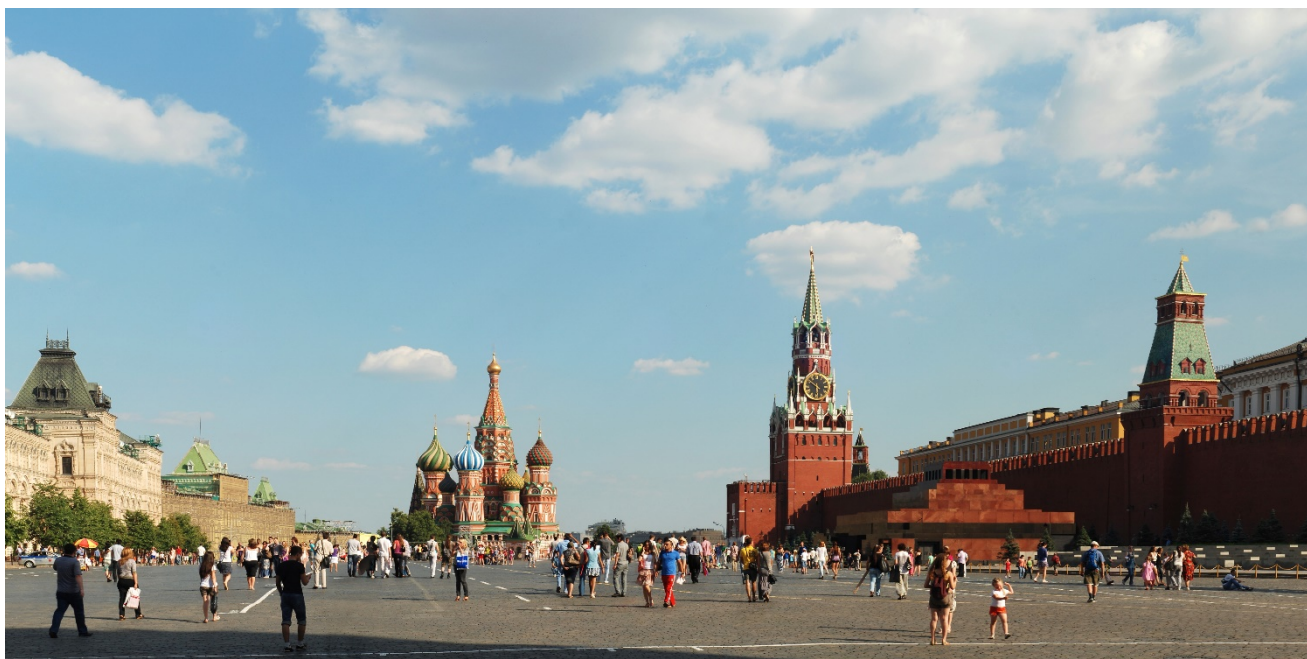


# Trip to Moscow, St Petersburg and Karelia – August 2019

Travelling to Russia with The St Gregory's Foundation is more than a tourist experience. While you will get a chance to see some of the highlights of Russian heritage and landscape, you will also spend time with some of our colleagues, volunteers and the people who benefit from our work. You will visit small village communities off the normal tourist trail and get a deeper insight into Russian culture.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

## Moscow



We will spend 3 full days in Moscow, and will show you some of the greatest sights that Moscow has to offer, including:

- Kremlin, Armoury
- Red Square: St Basil's Cathedral, Lenin's Mausoleum (outside)
- The Tretyakov gallery (which has a collection of more than 170,000 Russian works of art, created over the last 300 – 400 years, with some pieces more than a thousand years old)
- Kolomenskoe, the once beloved residence of the Romanov family
- VDNKh Soviet Exhibition Centre, Sparrow Hills, Novodevichiy Convent (outside).

We will also visit the "Communication Space" centre which runs the project Alternative Technologies for disabled children and teenagers <http://stgregorysfoundation.org.uk/what-we-do/who-we-help/disabled-children/>

In Moscow we will stay in comfortable hotels in the centre of town (either Arbat hotel or IBIS Moscow).

## Kondopoga and surrounding area

From Moscow, we will travel by night train to Petrazavodsk. After our arrival at 8.55 am we'll travel by coach organised by the Parish of Kondopoga, to the hotel in the centre of the nearby town of Kondopoga where you can rest after the trip. This hotel will be our base for visiting the Kondopoga Parish including:

- the parish icon workshop
- spending some time with children and teenagers who benefit from summer camps organized by the Parish
- the new church, designed, built and equipped with icons by members of the parish.
- Novinka, a tiny village with its own tiny church, where the parish priest organises summer camps for disadvantaged teenagers who take on various volunteer projects.
- Kivach waterfall and Munozero, a beautiful lake, close to Kondopoga
- For those who would like to experience a Russian sauna or bathhouse, the Parish can organise this during our trip to Munozero where you can rest and relax at the small lakeside cottages and enjoy fantastic views over the lake.

We will experience Russian hospitality at its best as well as the beauties of the Karelian landscape of lakes and forest.

We'll spend some time with children and teenagers who benefit from summer camps organized by the Parish <http://stgregorysfoundation.org.uk/what-we-do/who-we-help/reducing-child-poverty/>



After 2 days in Kondopoga, we will take a morning train to St Petersburg. We will spend 4 full days in St Petersburg, and will show you some of the highlights, including:

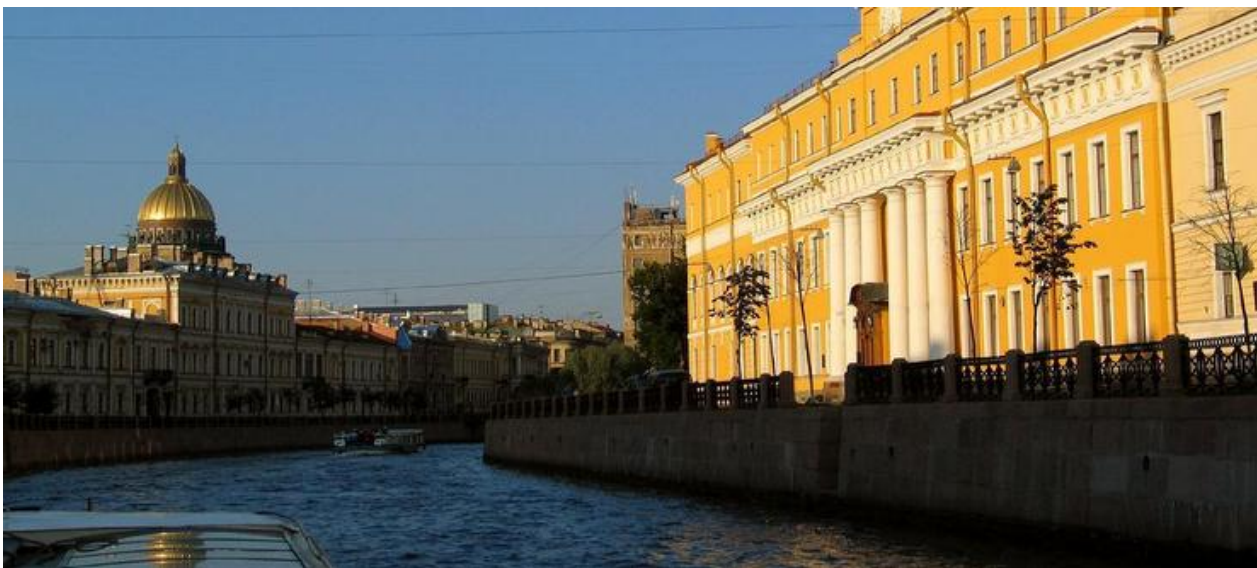
- The Hermitage,
- The Russian Museum (a gallery of Russian art with masterpieces from medieval times to the 20<sup>th</sup> century),
- The Faberge Museum (to see a unique collection of Faberge eggs and other jewelry made for the Tsar's family and other prominent families in Russia).
- The summer palaces of Pavlovsk and Catherine's Palace

- We will be able to enjoy St Petersburg's views onboard one of the pleasure boats floating along the rivers and canals of the 'northern capital' as they call this beautiful city. Approximate cruising time one hour.
- We'll be able to see the famous Russian ballet at Mikhailovsky Theatre.

We'll also meet the team, parents and children at Sunflower:

<http://stgregorysfoundation.org.uk/what-we-do/who-we-help/parents-who-grew-up-in-orphanages/>

In both St Petersburg/Moscow we will stay in comfortable hotels (breakfast included). We'll have lunches and light dinners/buffet in the local cafes/restaurants with European and Russian cuisine, affordable prices and good hygiene.



The cost is about £2,000 per person which includes all travel, all meals and all sightseeing entry. If you are interested in coming on the trip, please return your booking form by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**Registration** - Bookings forms will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

**Price** - £2,000 per person. This includes all meals, all transport (from the UK – Manchester or a London airport), accommodation and tourist attractions. You will only need to pay for alcoholic drinks and mineral water since tap water is not drinkable. You can assume western prices in St Petersburg, although Karelian prices should be lower.

This figure includes a £125 donation to the work of St Gregory's Foundation.

Please note that there may be some slight variation in the price which depends on the exchange rate. We have been conservative in our costing allowing for inflation at the current rate and for unforeseen expenses.

**Meals** – all included except for alcoholic drinks. You will also need to buy mineral water, since tap water is not drinkable. Please make sure you let us know about any special dietary requirements.

**Flights** – We undertake to organise flights from London or Manchester with the cost included. If you are travelling from elsewhere you will need to organize your own flights, however we can adjust the price for you accordingly. Please note your situation on the booking form.

**Passport and visas** - A full UK passport is required valid until at least 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. You will need to apply for your Russian visa since there is a new rule to provide finger prints. You will need to apply three months ahead of travel. You will need to fill in the visa application and send your passport for the duration of the application process (20 working days). All the details can be found here:  
<http://ru.vfsglobal.co.uk/>

We'll be able to provide your invitation and hotel vouchers before you apply for your visa.

**Travel insurance** - You will need to purchase comprehensive travel insurance to cover European Russia. Please note that The St Gregory's Foundation is not a travel agency. We are facilitating this trip as for a group of friends and you must make sure that you are insured since we cannot be responsible if for personal reasons you are not able to come on the trip or in the unlikely case that one of the hotels or the airline were to fold between our booking and arrival. Once flights and hotels are booked, we will can only guarantee to refund your flight taxes should you be unable to come.

**Contact details** – Julia Ashmore, Tel. 0203 372 4992, [Julia-sgf@outlook.com](mailto:Julia-sgf@outlook.com)