

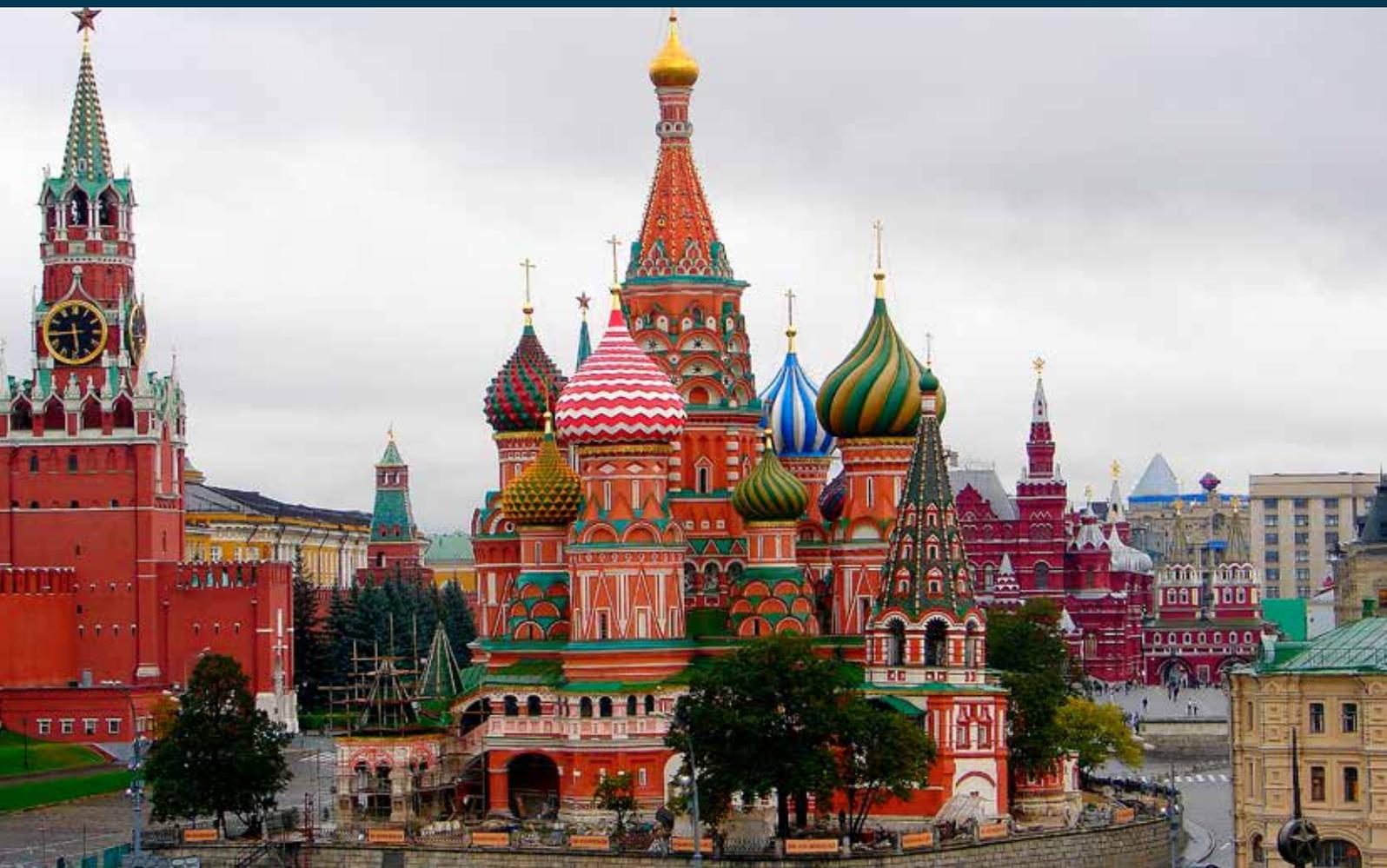
**INCLUSIVE
SIGHTSEEING***

**SMALL
GROUPS***

**AUSTRALIAN-
BASED TOUR
HOST***

**AIRFARES
INCLUDED***

**VISAS, TIPPING
& TRANSFERS
INCLUDED***



**escorted
ESCAPES**

With you every step of the way

RUSSIA & THE BALTICS

29 DAYS



2019 DEPARTURES

DATE	TWIN	SOLO
4 Sep - 2 Oct 19	\$14,495*	\$16,995*

For additional information on this trip, including tour suitability and activity levels, please refer to the detailed trip notes at www.escortedescapes.com.au. Prices are per person.

THE ESCORTED ESCAPES INCLUSIONS

- ✓ AIRFARES INCLUDED*
- ✓ FULLY ESCORTED HOLIDAYS*
- ✓ VISAS, TRANSFERS, TIPPING INCLUDED*
- ✓ SMALL GROUPS*
- ✓ INCLUSIVE SIGHTSEEING*

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Red Square, the Kremlin and the Armoury in Moscow
- Visit the majestic Peterhof Grand Palace and Catherine Palace in St. Petersburg
- Cross the mighty Danube River on Budapest's famous Chain Bridge
- Wander around the historic Town Hall square in the middle of medieval Tallinn
- Experience the historic towns and villages of Russia's Golden Ring
- Appreciate art and culture at the second-largest museum in the world, the Hermitage State Museum.
- Visit Riga, known for its wooden buildings, art nouveau architecture and medieval Old Town
- Remember Poland's tragic past with a tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp and museum
- Travel on high speed train between Moscow and St. Petersburg

**DAY 1 AUSTRALIA - MOSCOW**

Our Escorted Escape begins today as we fly from Australia to Moscow. Tonight will be spent in the air en-route to Russia.

DAY 2 MOSCOW

On arrival in Moscow we will be met by our tour leader and transferred to our hotel. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.

Accommodation: Azimut Hotel Olympic

DAY 3 MOSCOW

We spend today exploring the founding centre of Moscow, the Kremlin and Red Square. Wander within the walls of this ancient fortress and admire the magnificent St. Basil's Cathedral. In the evening we head out for our welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** Azimut Hotel Olympic

DAY 4 MOSCOW

Further explore the sights of Moscow today. Our highlights include the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, and Victory Park, an open-air museum dedicated to the Russian victory over Napoleon.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** Azimut Hotel Olympic

DAY 5 SUZDAL

Our first stop today is Vladimir, where we visit the Assumption and Dmitrievsky Cathedrals. In Suzdal we explore the Suzdal Kremlin, Monastery and Wooden Architecture and Peasant Life museum, which offers a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the rural folk in the area.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Sokol Hotel

DAY 6 KOSTROMA

Today we continue to Kostroma; a river port, light-industry centre and a serene spot on the Volga River. Our afternoon sightseeing includes the Monastery of St. Ipaty and the Snow Maiden Museum and Ice Bar.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Hotel Golden Ring

DAY 7 YAROSLAVL

Head to Yaroslavl today, the unofficial capital of the Golden Ring. Explore the Residence of Her Majesty the Queen of Maslenitsa, Monastery of Transfiguration and the Church of Elijah the Prophet.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Park Inn by Radisson

DAY 8 MOSCOW

Today we complete our Golden Ring journey, heading back to Moscow while visiting sights along the way at the towns of Rostov, Pereslavl-Zalesky and Serqiyev Posad.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Azimut Hotel Olympic

DAY 9 ST. PETERSBURG

Travel by high-speed train from Moscow to St. Petersburg today. On arrival we visit Nevsky Prospekt Street, the main thoroughfare, as well as the Statue of Peter the Great and the Cathedral of Our Lady Kazan.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Happy Pushkin Hotel

DAY 10 ST. PETERSBURG

Today we explore St. Petersburg, including the Peter & Paul Fortress, founded by Peter the Great in 1703. We also visit the impressive St. Isaac's Cathedral, whose dome dominates the city skyline, and St. Nicholas' Naval Cathedral.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Happy Pushkin Hotel

DAY 11 ST. PETERSBURG

Palaces are today's theme as we embark on a short road trip to visit nearby palaces and parks at Peterhof and Pushkin. Catherine Palace, with its elaborate blue and white facade, is a magnificent example of Russian baroque while Peterhof's Versailles-inspired palace and vast parklands with numerous fountains are a sight to behold!

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Happy Pushkin Hotel



DAY 12 ST. PETERSBURG

We spend our last morning in St. Petersburg appreciating art and culture at Hermitage State Museum, before we explore the 7000 square metres of mosaics inside The Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood. The afternoon is free for you to spend at your leisure.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Happy Pushkin Hotel

DAY 13 TALLINN

Today we journey to the Estonian Capital, Tallinn. Just across the border we stop at Narva, to explore Hermann Castle and Art Gallery. Enjoy a group dinner this evening to celebrate your arrival in the Baltics.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** Park Inn Meriton

DAY 14 TALLINN

Spend this morning exploring Tallinn, including the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and St. Olaf's Church, before enjoying a group lunch at a local restaurant. The afternoon is at your leisure.

Meals: B + L **Accommodation:** Park Inn Meriton

DAY 15 RIGA

We depart for Riga today. After crossing the border into Latvia, we make stops at the Turaida Castle Complex in Sigulda and the Soviet Underground Bunker in Ligatne before continuing onto Riga.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Opera Hotel & Spa

DAY 16 RIGA

Today our exploration of Riga includes the Riga Cathedral, Freedom Monument, and St. Peter's Church, where you can take the lift to the observation deck for 360-degree views of the city of Riga.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Opera Hotel & Spa

DAY 17 VILNIUS

Our journey through the Baltics continues as we head into Lithuania today. En-route to Vilnius, we make stops at the Salaspils Memorials and Hill of Crosses in Siauliai, and the Ninth Fort Memorial in Kaunas.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Hotel Avenue Congress

DAY 18 VILNIUS

Today we visit local sights including the Vilnius Cathedral and Gediminas Castle, as well as the Uzupis district in the old town, which in 1997 declared itself an Independent Republic. We also head to the nearby Trakai Castle, which is located on an island in Lake Galvė.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Hotel Avenue Congress

DAY 19 WARSAW

It's a long travel day today as we make our way into Poland. Just across the border we stop at Bialystok to visit the Branicki Palace and Museum of Pharmacy before we continue to Warsaw, enjoying a group dinner on arrival.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** Polonia Palace

DAY 20 WARSAW

Spend today exploring Warsaw. Highlights include the Royal Castle, Rising Museum and Poland's tallest building the Palace of Culture and Science, where you can admire the view from the observation deck.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Polonia Palace

DAY 21 KRAKOW

We head across Poland to Krakow today, via Tokarina, where we will explore the Kielce Ethnographic and Countryside open-air folk museum with its historic buildings such as homesteads, cottages, windmills, watermills as well as the splendid manor house from Suchedniów.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Inx Design

DAY 22 KRAKOW

Spend this morning touring the city of Krakow. We'll visit the Wawel castle as well as the Jewish district of Kazimierz in the Old Town, now a jumble of indie galleries, quirky shops, vintage clothing stores and bars. The afternoon is free for you to explore at your leisure.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Inx Design

DAY 23 KRAKOW

Today we travel to Oświęcim where we will take a guided tour of the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration and extermination camps, synonymous with genocide and the Holocaust. Visit the onsite museum to learn about the Nazi Holocaust and how the camps functioned.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Inx Design

DAY 24 RUZOMBEROK

We head south today into Slovakia. En-route we visit the Salt Mines at Wieliczka, before making our way to Ruzomberok where we explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site Vlkolinec, a remarkably preserved traditional European village.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** Hotel TBA

DAY 25 BUDAPEST

This morning we continue into Hungary and on to Budapest, where we spend the afternoon getting acquainted with the city on a short tour which includes the famous Chain Bridge that spans the River Danube between Buda in the west and Pest in the east.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Novotel Danube

DAY 26 BUDAPEST

We further explore Budapest today, where our highlights include the Buda Palace and Budapest History Museum, as well as the Dohany Great Synagogue. The afternoon is at your leisure before we meet up for our farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: B + D **Accommodation:** Novotel Danube

DAY 27 DUBAI

Today we farewell Budapest and head to the airport for our flight home.

Meals: B **Accommodation:** Dubai International Hotel

DAY 28 IN TRANSIT

Today is spent travelling.

DAY 29 AUSTRALIA

Our Escorted Escape ends. On arrival, farewell your friends and tour host as you head home.



TOP 10 REASONS TO TRAVEL WITH US

“Once a year,
go someplace you’ve
never been before.”

Dalai Lama

AUSTRALIAN-BASED TOUR HOST

Each and every tour is hosted by an experienced travel professional. Our hosts have travelled extensively themselves and have a passion for exploring our wonderful world. We are there to liaise with the local operators to ensure you relax and enjoy your holiday while we take care of the details.

AIRFARES INCLUDED

Every Escorted Escape includes return economy airfares from Australia (Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne or Adelaide), plus all internal flights as per the itinerary. For available upgrades (at additional cost) or departures from Australian cities not listed above please contact your consultant for pricing. We generally use premium airlines for all long haul travel, to give you the most direct flights and best connection times to our destination. Deviations from the group are often possible, please contact your consultant who will customise your itinerary to make the most of your trip.

SMALL GROUPS

We offer a small-group experience on all of our Escorted Escapes. We guarantee our group size will never exceed 20 travellers on any one tour. With fewer travellers in our groups, you'll spend less time checking into hotels and getting on (and off) transport and more time seeing the sights.

INCLUSIVE SIGHTSEEING

While our trips are leisurely paced, we pride ourselves on including the very best sightseeing on offer in each location. Please refer to the itinerary and trip notes for daily inclusions. Optional activities (at additional cost) may also be available in certain locations.

VISAS, TIPPING & TRANSFERS INCLUDED

We believe travel should be simple and easy for you, which is why we include as many costs as possible, including transfers from your home to the airport (to the value of \$100). Visa costs for Australian passport holders are also included in every tour. We take care of tipping for group activities as well as for your tour leader, local guides and drivers.

UNIQUE ITINERARIES

Each itinerary is carefully planned and unique to Escorted Escapes. They are individually designed with our clientele in mind, reflecting our extensive travel industry experience and valued customer feedback. We prefer to travel at a leisurely pace, minimising one night stays in favour of two and three-night stays at key destinations.

OUR ACCOMMODATION

We use a range of quality accommodation including hotels, lodges, luxury tented

camp and cruise cabins. We take pride in selecting the best locations and guarantee that all accommodation includes private ensuite facilities. With our small group sizes, we have the flexibility to stay in smaller boutique properties, where available, to further enhance your travel experience. Please refer to the trip itinerary for the hotels we have carefully selected for your trip*.

TOUR LEADERS & LOCAL GUIDES

Each of our trips include a local English-speaking tour leader who is your destination expert, in addition to your Australian-based tour host. We also utilise the services of expert local guides where appropriate to enhance your experience in the key destinations.

SOLO TRAVELLERS

If you're travelling solo you don't need to be travelling alone. With our Escorted Escapes, you have the opportunity to travel with a whole new set of friends. Our single supplements are designed to keep the cost down and remove the stress of travelling by yourself.

MEAL INCLUSIONS

Breakfast is included each day for your convenience. We also offer a selection of included meals as per the trip itinerary, while allowing plenty of opportunities for you to sample the local cuisine at your leisure.

escorted ESCAPES®

With you every step of the way

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