

# ESN Sweden Road Trips to Russia Fall Semester 2008

Brought to you by Niinimäki Travels & ESN Sweden for students at:

**ESN Uppsala, ESN Stockholm (KTH), ESN Linköping, ESN Jönköping, ESN Örebro, ESN Växjö, ESN Göteborg (Chalmers/GU), ESN Skövde, ESN Lund (LU/LTH), ESN Kalmar, and ESN Malmö Universities**

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Summer greetings to you and welcome to Sweden! It is that time once again! Now for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Niinimäki Travels brings you the **ESN Sweden Road Trips to Russia** continuing the tradition of international student adventures to St Petersburg and Moscow, Russia.

There are five ESN Sweden Road Trips to Russia for intrepid students from many Swedish universities already organized – see the list of participating universities above. The only thing missing is you!

These trips are planned with safety, reliability and of course, fun in mind. Trip transportation through Finland to Russia is provided with Finnish buses and experienced Finnish bus drivers. The hotels that the groups stay at are centrally located near the sights and action of the downtown in both St Petersburg and Moscow (and Helsinki for Road Trip #84). Our sightseeing and optional program tour guides are from either St Petersburg, or Moscow. The trip schedules offer you the choice of joining a structured series of optional programs at an additional cost, or giving you the time to go out on your own and see the sights at your own speed.

Please read through the following information to get all of the details about the trips being offered. Below that, you will find information about the visa costs, how to register for a place on one of the trips, and many other important details.

This web site's main point is to be your resource for joining one of the trips. As you read through the information here, you will notice that there are some critical issues – especially related to the visa application, passport and paper work – that will require your full attention. But it will be worth the effort!

We would also like to suggest that you check back with this site often as we will make updates when necessary, as well as providing details about the remaining number of available places for each trip.

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**82<sup>nd</sup> ESN Sweden Road Trip to Russia**  
***St Petersburg and Moscow***

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**Date:** Tuesday, 4 November to Wednesday 12 November 2008

**Destination:** St Petersburg and Moscow, Russia

**Available places:** 60 total for all participating groups

**Required:** valid INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT (allowing travel outside the EU)

**Participating Groups:** ESN Uppsala, ESN Stockholm (KTH), ESN Linköping, ESN Jönköping, ESN Örebro, ESN Växjö, ESN Göteborg (Chalmers/GU), ESN Skövde, ESN Lund (LU/LTH), ESN Kalmar, and ESN Malmö Universities  
(students from other universities and non-students are also welcome to join)

**Price:** 470 EUR + individual Russian Tourist Visa cost (prices listed below)

**Included:**

- round trip ferry transportation from Stockholm to Finland (Viking Line)
- 4-person cabin on both of the ferry journeys
- round trip transportation from Stockholm, Sweden, to Russia
- double occupancy HOTEL accommodations in all destination cities
- Russian tourist visa paper work, support + processing
- personal travel insurance from SAMPO insurance company
- buffet breakfast on four mornings in the hotel
- guided sightseeing tours (in English) of St Petersburg and Moscow
- transportation to the State Hermitage Art Museum
- the hotel's mandatory passport and visa registration fees

**\* Preliminary Trip Schedule \***

**All times listed are in LOCAL TIMES:**

**CET** = Central European Time (Swedish time)

**EET** = Eastern European Time, (Finnish time) +1 hour to CET

**MSD** = Moscow Standard Time (Western Russia), +1 hour to EET, +2 hours to CET

**Day One: Tuesday, 4 November**

**(Exact departure time and locations to be announced by e-mail)**

18:00 — ALL GROUPS to Viking Line terminal (Stadsgården) in Stockholm

20:10 — Viking Line M/S Amorella departure to Turku, Finland

**Day Two: Wednesday, 5 November**

07:35 — Arrival in Turku, all groups to buses, depart for St Petersburg

14:00 — Arrival at Finnish border/frontier

16:00 — Arrival at Russian border

17:00 — Departure from Russian border, drive to St Petersburg

21:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Azimut Hotel; group check-in

**FREE TIME**

**Day Three: Thursday, 6 November**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

09:30 — Group departure for city sightseeing tour, ending at Hermitage Museum parking area

17:00 — Departure from Hermitage to hotel

**FREE TIME** or

**Departure time To Be Announced** — OPTIONAL PROGRAM #1:

Russian Folk Dance Performance at Nikolaiyev's Palace

21:00 — (ESTIMATED) Return to hotel

**Day Four: Friday, 7 November**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

08:30 — **ALL LUGGAGE to the buses!**

09:00 — Departure for OPTIONAL PROGRAM #2:

Pushkin & Catherine's Palace, departure by bus from the hotel

14:00 — (ESTIMATED) Return to St Petersburg, group drop off in city center

**FREE TIME** until

20:00 — Departure from St Petersburg to MOSCOW (overnight drive)

**Departure location:** St Isaac's Cathedral in city center (location will be shown during the sightseeing tour)

**Day Five: Saturday, 8 November**

07:00 — (ESTIMATED) Group breakfast stop at Zelenograd McDonald's!

10:00 — Arrival in Moscow, guided sightseeing tour of the city

13:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Kosmos Hotel; group check-in

**FREE TIME**

**Day Six: Sunday, 9 November**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

10:00 — **ALL LUGGAGE to the buses!**

**Departure Time To Be Announced** — OPTIONAL PROGRAM #3:

Kremlin Tour, meeting location to be announced

**FREE TIME**

21:00 — Departure from Moscow to ST PETERSBURG (overnight drive)

**Departure location:** Red Square parking place (location will be shown to you during the sightseeing tour)

**Day Seven: Monday, 10 November**

10:00 — (ESTIMATED) arrival at Azimut Hotel; group check-in

**FREE TIME**

**Day Eight: Tuesday, 11 November**

06:30 — 07:00 **ALL LUGGAGE to the bus!**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

08:00 — Group departure from St Petersburg, to Finland

11:00 — Possible stop in Vyborg

13:00 — Russian border stop

14:00 — Finnish border

14:00 — Lunch break

19:30 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Turku harbor

21:00 — Viking Line M/S Isabella departure to Stockholm

**Day Nine: Wednesday, 12 November**

06:30 — Arrival in Stockholm (Stadsgården)

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# The 83<sup>rd</sup> Sweden Road Trip to Russia

## *St Petersburg*

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**Date:** Wednesday, 12 November to Monday, 17 November 2008

**Destination:** St Petersburg, Russia

**Available places:** 60 total for all participating groups

**Required:** valid INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT (allowing travel outside the EU)

**Participating Groups:** ESN Uppsala, ESN Stockholm (KTH), ESN Linköping, ESN Jönköping, ESN Örebro, ESN Växjö, ESN Göteborg (Chalmers/GU), ESN Skövde, ESN Lund (LU/LTH), ESN Kalmar, and ESN Malmö Universities  
(students from other universities and non-students are also welcome to join)

**Price:** 320 EUR + individual Russian Tourist Visa cost (prices listed below)

### **Included:**

- round trip ferry transportation from Stockholm to Finland (Viking Line)
- 4-person cabin on both of the ferry journeys
- round trip transportation from Stockholm, Sweden, to Russia
- double occupancy HOTEL accommodations in all destination cities
- Russian tourist visa paper work, support + processing
- personal travel insurance from SAMPO insurance company
- buffet breakfast on three mornings in the hotel
- guided sightseeing tour of St Petersburg and Moscow
- transportation to the State Hermitage Art Museum in St Petersburg
- the hotel's mandatory passport and visa registration fees

### **\* Preliminary Trip Schedule \***

#### **All times listed are in LOCAL TIMES:**

**CET** = Central European Time (Swedish time)

**EET** = Eastern European Time, (Finnish time) +1 hour to CET

**MSD** = Moscow Standard Time (Western Russia), +1 hour to EET, +2 hours to CET

#### **Day One: Wednesday, 12 November**

**(Exact departure time and locations to be announced by e-mail)**

18:00 — ALL GROUPS to Viking Line terminal (Stadsgården) in Stockholm

20:10 — Viking Line M/S Amorella departure to Turku, Finland

#### **Day Two: Thursday, 13 November**

07:35 — Arrival in Turku, all groups to buses, depart for St Petersburg

14:00 — Arrival at Finnish border/frontier

16:00 — Arrival at Russian border

17:00 — Departure from Russian border, drive to St Petersburg

21:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Azimut Hotel; group check-in

**FREE TIME**

### **Day Three: Friday, 14 November**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

**FREE TIME** or

**Departure time To Be Announced** — OPTIONAL PROGRAM #1:

Pushkin and Catharine's Palace, departure by bus from the hotel

14:00 — (ESTIMATED) Return to St Petersburg, group drop off in city center

**Departure time To Be Announced** – OPTIONAL PROGRAM #2:

Russian Folk Dance Performance at Nikolaiyev's Palace

21:00 — (ESTIMATED) Return to hotel

### **Day Four: Saturday, 15 November**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

09:30 — Group departure for city sightseeing tour, ending at Hermitage Museum parking area

17:00 — Departure from Hermitage to hotel

**FREE TIME** (No evening program currently planned)

### **Day Five: Sunday, 16 November**

06:30 — 07:00 **ALL LUGGAGE to the bus!**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

08:00 — Group departure from St Petersburg, to Finland

10:30 — Possible stop in Vyborg

13:00 — Russian border stop

14:00 — Finnish border

14:00 — Lunch break

19:30 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Turku harbor

21:00 — Viking Line M/S Isabella departure to Stockholm

### **Day Six: Monday, 17 November**

06:30 — Arrival in Stockholm (Stadsgården)

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# **The 84<sup>th</sup> Sweden Road Trip to Russia**

## ***Helsinki, St Petersburg and Moscow***

### ***"The Big One"***

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**Date:** Monday, 17 November to Wednesday, 26 November 2008

**Destination:** Helsinki, Finland, St Petersburg and Moscow, Russia

**Available places:** 105 total for all participating groups

**Required:** valid INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT (allowing travel outside the EU)

**Participating Groups:** ESN Uppsala, ESN Stockholm (KTH), ESN Linköping, ESN Jönköping, ESN Örebro, ESN Växjö, ESN Göteborg (Chalmers/GU), ESN Skövde, ESN Lund (LU/LTH), ESN Kalmar, and ESN Malmö Universities  
(students from other universities and non-students are also welcome to join)

**Price:** 540 EUR + individual Russian Tourist Visa cost (prices listed below)

## **Included:**

- round trip ferry transportation from Stockholm to Finland (Viking Line)
- 4-person cabin on both of the ferry journeys
- round trip transportation from Stockholm, Sweden, to Russia
- double occupancy HOTEL accommodations in all destination cities
- Russian tourist visa paper work, support + processing
- personal travel insurance from SAMPO insurance company
- buffet breakfast on five mornings in the hotels
- guided sightseeing tour of St Petersburg and Moscow
- transportation to the State Hermitage Art Museum in St Petersburg
- the hotel's mandatory passport and visa registration fees

## **\* Preliminary Trip Schedule \***

### **All times listed are in LOCAL TIMES:**

**CET** = Central European Time (Swedish time)

**EET** = Eastern European Time, (Finnish time) +1 hour to CET

**MSD** = Moscow Standard Time (Western Russia), +1 hour to EET, +2 hours to CET

### **Day One: Monday, 17 November**

**(Exact departure time and locations to be announced by e-mail)**

18:00 — ALL GROUPS to Viking Line terminal (Stadsgården) in Stockholm

20:10 — Viking Line M/S Amorella departure to Turku, Finland

### **Day Two: Tuesday, 18 November**

07:35 — Arrival in Turku, groups to bus, depart for Helsinki

11:30 — Arrival in Helsinki, followed by departure for sightseeing tour of Helsinki

13:30 — Arrival at Scandic Continental Hotel Helsinki; group check-in

14:00 — **FREE TIME**

### **Day Three: Wednesday, 19 November**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open in the hotel

08:30 — Hotel check-out, luggage to the buses, departure from the hotel, to St Petersburg

11:00 — Arrival at Finnish border/frontier

12:30 — Arrival at Russian border, drive to St Petersburg

18:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Azimut Hotel; group check-in

**FREE TIME**

### **Day Four: Thursday, 20 November**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

09:30 — Group departure for city sightseeing tour, ending at Hermitage Museum parking area

17:00 — Departure from Hermitage to hotel

**FREE TIME or**

**Departure time To Be Announced** – OPTIONAL PROGRAM #1:

Russian Folk Dance Performance at Nikolaiyev's Palace

21:00 — (ESTIMATED) return to hotel

**Day Five: Friday, 21 November**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

08:30 — **ALL LUGGAGE to the buses!**

**Departure time To Be Announced** — OPTIONAL PROGRAM #2 (day program):  
Pushkin & Catherine's Palace, departure by bus from the hotel

14:00 — (ESTIMATED) Return to St Petersburg, group drop off in city center

**FREE TIME until**

20:00 — Departure from St Petersburg to MOSCOW (overnight drive)

**Departure location:** St Isaac's Cathedral in city center (location will be shown during the sightseeing tour)

**Day Six: Saturday, 22 November**

07:00 — (ESTIMATED) Group breakfast stop at Zelenograd McDonald's!

10:00 — Arrival in Moscow, guided sightseeing tour of the city

13:00 — (ESTIMATED) arrival at Izmailova Vega Hotel; group check-in

**FREE TIME**

**Day Seven: Sunday, 23 November**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open, entrance through the lobby on main floor

09:00 — **ALL LUGGAGE to the buses!**

**Departure time To Be Announced** — OPTIONAL PROGRAM #3:  
Kremlin Tour, meeting location to be announced

**FREE TIME**

21:00 — Departure from Moscow to ST PETERSBURG (overnight drive)

**Departure location:** Red Square parking place (location will be shown to you during the sightseeing tour)

**Day Eight: Monday, 24 November**

10:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Azimut Hotel; group check-in

**FREE TIME** (No evening program currently planned)

**Day Nine: Tuesday, 25 November**

06:30 — 07:00 **ALL LUGGAGE to the buses!**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

08:00 — Group departure from St Petersburg, to Finland

10:30 — Possible stop in Vyborg

13:00 — Russian border stop

14:00 — Finnish border

14:00 — Lunch break

19:30 — (ESTIMATED) arrival at Turku harbor

21:00 — Viking Line M/S Isabella departure to Stockholm

**Day Ten: Wednesday, 26 November**

06:30 — Arrival in Stockholm (Stadsgården)

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**The 85<sup>th</sup> Sweden Road Trip to Russia**  
***St Petersburg and Moscow***

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**Date:** Wednesday, 26 November to Wednesday, 3 December 2008

**Destination:** St Petersburg and Moscow, Russia

**Available places:** 105 total for all participating groups

**Required:** valid INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT (allowing travel outside the EU)

**Participating Groups:** ESN Uppsala, ESN Stockholm (KTH), ESN Linköping, ESN Jönköping, ESN Örebro, ESN Växjö, ESN Göteborg (Chalmers/GU), ESN Skövde, ESN Lund (LU/LTH), ESN Kalmar, and ESN Malmö Universities  
(students from other universities and non-students are also welcome to join)

**Price:** 450 EUR + individual Russian Tourist Visa cost (prices listed below)

**Included:**

- round trip ferry transportation from Stockholm to Finland (Viking Line)
- 4-person cabin on both of the ferry journeys
- round trip transportation from Stockholm, Sweden, to Russia
- double occupancy HOTEL accommodations in all destination cities
- Russian tourist visa paper work, support + processing
- personal travel insurance from SAMPO insurance company
- buffet breakfast on three mornings in the hotels
- guided sightseeing tour of St Petersburg and Moscow
- transportation to the State Hermitage Art Museum in St Petersburg
- the hotel's mandatory passport and visa registration fees

**\* Preliminary Trip Schedule \***

**All times listed are in LOCAL TIMES:**

**CET** = Central European Time (Swedish time)

**EET** = Eastern European Time, (Finnish time) +1 hour to CET

**MSD** = Moscow Standard Time (Western Russia), +1 hour to EET, +2 hours to CET

**Day One: Wednesday, 26 November**

**(Exact departure time and locations to be announced by e-mail)**

18:00 — ALL GROUPS to Viking Line terminal (Stadsgården) in Stockholm

20:10 — Viking Line M/S Amorella departure to Turku, Finland

**Day Two: Thursday, 27 November**

07:35 — Arrival in Turku, all groups to bus, depart for St Petersburg

14:00 — Arrival at Finnish border/frontier

16:00 — Arrival at Russian border

17:00 — Departure from Russian border, drive to St Petersburg

21:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Azimut Hotel; group check-in

**FREE TIME**

**Day Three: Friday, 28 November**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

08:30 — **ALL LUGGAGE to the buses!**

**Departure time To Be Announced** — OPTIONAL PROGRAM #1: guided tour of Pushkin & Catherine's Palace (45min outside of St Petersburg)  
15:00 — (ESTIMATED) Return to St Petersburg, group drop off in city center  
**FREE TIME** until  
20:00 — Departure from St Petersburg to MOSCOW (overnight drive)  
**Departure location:** St Isaac's Cathedral in the city center

**Day Four: Saturday, 29 November**

07:00 — (ESTIMATED) Group breakfast stop at Zelenograd McDonald's!  
10:00 — Arrival in Moscow, guided sightseeing tour of the city  
13:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Izmailova Hotel; group check-in  
**FREE TIME**

**Day Five: Sunday, 30 November**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open  
09:00 — **ALL LUGGAGE to the buses!**  
**Departure time To Be Announced** — OPTIONAL PROGRAM #2:  
Kremlin Tour, meeting location to be announced  
**FREE TIME**  
21:00 — Departure from Moscow to ST PETERSBURG (overnight drive)  
**Departure location:** Red Square parking place (location will be shown to you during the sightseeing tour)

**Day Six: Monday, 1 December**

10:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival in St Petersburg, directly to city sightseeing tour  
14:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Azimut Hotel; group check-in  
**FREE TIME**

**Day Seven: Tuesday, 2 December**

06:30 — 07:00 **ALL LUGGAGE to the buses!**  
07:00 — Buffet breakfast open  
08:00 — Group departure from St Petersburg, to Finland  
10:30 — Possible stop in Vyborg  
13:00 — Russian border stop  
14:00 — Finnish border  
14:00 — Lunch break  
19:30 — (ESTIMATED) arrival at Turku harbor  
21:00 — Viking Line M/S Isabella departure to Stockholm

**Day Eight: Wednesday, 3 December**

06:30 — Arrival in Stockholm (Stadsgården)

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# **The 86<sup>th</sup> Sweden Road Trip to Russia**

## ***St Petersburg and Moscow***

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**Date:** Wednesday, 3 December to Wednesday, 10 December 2008

**Destination:** St Petersburg and Moscow, Russia

**Available places:** 60 total for all participating groups

**Required:** valid INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT (allowing travel outside the EU)

**Participating Groups:** ESN Uppsala, ESN Stockholm (KTH), ESN Linköping, ESN Jönköping, ESN Örebro, ESN Växjö, ESN Göteborg (Chalmers/GU), ESN Skövde, ESN Lund (LU/LTH), ESN Kalmar, and ESN Malmö Universities  
(students from other universities and non-students are also welcome to join)

**Price:** 430 EUR + individual Russian Tourist Visa cost (prices listed below)

**Included:**

- round trip ferry transportation from Stockholm to Finland (Viking Line)
- 4-person cabin on both of the ferry journeys
- round trip transportation from Stockholm, Sweden, to Russia
- double occupancy HOTEL accommodations in St Petersburg
- Russian tourist visa paper work, support + processing
- personal travel insurance from SAMPO insurance company
- buffet breakfast on three mornings in the hotels
- guided sightseeing tour of St Petersburg
- transportation to the State Hermitage Art Museum in St Petersburg
- the hotel's mandatory passport and visa registration fees

**\* Preliminary Trip Schedule \***

**All times listed are in LOCAL TIMES:**

**CET** = Central European Time (Swedish time)

**EET** = Eastern European Time, (Finnish time) +1 hour to CET

**MSD** = Moscow Standard Time (Western Russia), +1 hour to EET, +2 hours to CET

**Day One: Wednesday, 3 December**

**(Exact departure time and locations to be announced by e-mail)**

18:00 — ALL GROUPS to Viking Line terminal (Stadsgården) in Stockholm

20:10 — Viking Line M/S Amorella departure to Turku, Finland

**Day Two: Thursday, 4 December**

07:35 — Arrival in Turku, all groups to bus, depart for St Petersburg

14:00 — Arrival at Finnish border/frontier

16:00 — Arrival at Russian border

17:00 — Departure from Russian border, drive to St Petersburg

21:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Azimut Hotel; group check-in

**FREE TIME**

**Day Three: Friday, 5 December**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

08:30 — **ALL LUGGAGE to the buses!**

**Departure time To Be Announced** — OPTIONAL PROGRAM #1: guided tour of Pushkin & Catherine's Palace (45min outside of St Petersburg)

15:00 — (ESTIMATED) Return to St Petersburg, group drop off in city center

**FREE TIME** until

20:00 — Departure from St Petersburg to MOSCOW (overnight drive)

**Departure location:** St Isaac's Cathedral in the city center

**Day Four: Saturday, 6 December**

07:00 — (ESTIMATED) Group breakfast stop at Zelenograd McDonald's!

10:00 — Arrival in Moscow, guided sightseeing tour of the city

13:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Izmailova Hotel; group check-in

**FREE TIME**

**Day Five: Sunday, 7 December**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

09:00 — **ALL LUGGAGE to the buses!**

**Departure time To Be Announced** — OPTIONAL PROGRAM #2:

Kremlin Tour, meeting location to be announced

**FREE TIME**

21:00 — Departure from Moscow to ST PETERSBURG (overnight drive)

**Departure location:** Red Square parking place (location will be shown to you during the sightseeing tour)

**Day Six: Monday, 8 December**

10:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival in St Petersburg, directly to city sightseeing tour

14:00 — (ESTIMATED) Arrival at Azimut Hotel; group check-in

**FREE TIME**

**Day Seven: Tuesday, 9 December**

06:30 — 07:00 **ALL LUGGAGE to the buses!**

07:00 — Buffet breakfast open

08:00 — Group departure from St Petersburg, to Finland

10:30 — Possible stop in Vyborg

13:00 — Russian border stop

14:00 — Finnish border

14:00 — Lunch break

19:30 — (ESTIMATED) arrival at Turku harbor

21:00 — Viking Line M/S Isabella departure to Stockholm

**Day Eight: Wednesday, 10 December**

06:30 — Arrival in Stockholm (Stadsgården)

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**Responsible travel agency:** All of the travel arrangements for the trips listed above are made by Ab Matka-Niinimäki Oy, Yrittäjätie 5, FIN — 21870 RIIHIKOSKI, Finland. Matka-Niinimäki is a licensed and bonded travel agency.

## **Registration Rules and Instructions**

Registration for the trips may only be done by e-mail (instructions below), and the registration time will be open from **Monday, 8 September 2008**. This means that as soon as it is Monday, 8 September in Finland (CET +1), registration for all the trips will be open to all participating universities.

In order to ensure that your registration is successful and that you get a place on the trip of your choice, please make note of the following simple rules for registering.

### **Rules:**

- You may only register for YOURSELF; registration e-mail messages with the registration information of multiple people will not be accepted
- You may NOT register for SOMEONE else; registration messages are individual
- You may only register for one trip during the semester
- You may NOT use any HOTMAIL e-mail address to register for one of the trips
- Please read through the passport requirements for obtaining a Russia tourist visa (below) before sending your registration information so that you make sure that you have the correct documents needed to be granted a Russian tourist visa
- If you do not receive a reply to your registration message within 24 hours, please send your message again
- There are a limited number of places available for each trip – when the trips are full, they will be closed to further participants. If a trip does become fully booked prior to the registration deadline, a waiting list will be made in case there are any cancellations

### **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE RULES**

### **Instructions:**

To register for one of the trips, send an e-mail message to:

**russia@matka-niinimaki.fi**

With the following information about yourself - include ALL details:

1. your last name(s) as it appears in your passport
2. your first name(s) as they appear in your passport
3. your gender (male or female)
4. your citizenship (according to your valid passport)
5. your date of birth (dd.mm.yyyy)
6. your place of birth (city and country)
7. your **PASSPORT NUMBER**
8. your e-mail address for trip information (NO hotmail addresses)
9. your **TRIP CHOICE** (please mention the trip #)
10. the name of the university that you study at in Sweden
11. your complete postal/ mailing address in Sweden
12. your telephone number in Sweden (if you have one)

You may also send the information for points 1-12 as an attachment to your e-mail message. Please use either .doc, .xls, or .pdf format.

Once your registration message has been received and reviewed, you will receive an e-mail reply that confirms or denies your registration on the trip of your choice. If your registration has been confirmed, your e-mail address will be added to an e-mail list for your trip/university that we maintain, and more details about the trip will be distributed through this list to the registered participants.

The names, personal information and e-mail addresses that are collected will not be given out to anyone, under any circumstances.

## **Passport Requirements for Russian Tourist Visa**

**For EU Citizens:** a valid passport, allowing for travel outside of the European Union, that is valid for at least six months after the last day of the stay in the Russian Federation. EU Citizens are not required to have a residence permit for Sweden in their passports. These requirements also apply to students from Norway, Iceland, The Faroe Islands, and Switzerland.

**For Non-EU Citizens:** a passport valid for at least six months after the last day of the stay in the Russian Federation. Furthermore, a Schengen visa, or Swedish residence permit, valid at least three months (from the date of issue), must be in the applicant's passport.

**Further requirements:** you must have at least one free page in your passport to accommodate your Russian tourist visa. Passports that are in poor condition, i.e., missing pages, torn or loose pages, or passports that have been in water (washing machine) may result in your visa application being rejected.

If your current passport does not fulfill these requirements, please immediately contact the e-mail address above. We may be able to help you obtain a new passport from your home embassy's consular section. See the **Passport Application Information** (below) for more details about this.

## **Russian Tourist Visa Processing**

One of the main components of joining any trip to Russia, is that of obtaining a Russian tourist visa which will allow you to enter and exit the Russian Federation. And an important feature of these trips is that Russian tourist visa processing is part of the trip package – meaning that we get the visas processed for you.

The Russian tourist visa is valid only for the duration of your trip and cannot be extended or used again. This does mean that you may be without your passport for up to 3 weeks (depending on your trip choice) from the date of the registration meeting at your university. Plan your other travels outside of Sweden with this in mind. Passports will be returned on Day One of each trip, at the Viking Line ferry terminal in Stockholm.

Here are the details about Russian tourist visa processing.

Each participant on one of the trips must obtain an individual, single-entry, tourist visa to enter and exit the Russian Federation – the exception to this is citizens of **THAILAND**. Thai citizens do not need a tourist visa to enter the Russian Federation for a period of up to 90 days.

Applying for a Russian tourist visa for any of the ESN Sweden Road Trips to Russia requires the following paper work:

- A valid passport
- A completed and signed Russian tourist visa questionnaire
- 2 passport pictures

Niinimäki Travels will take care of the remaining required paper work (hotel confirmation, payment voucher and travel insurance certificate) on your behalf.

### **Important note for students from the USA, Canada, the UK & NI, Ireland and Australia**

International students studying in Sweden that are citizens of, 1) The United States of America, 2) The Commonwealth of Canada, 3) The United Kingdom & Northern Ireland, 4) The Republic of Ireland, and, 5) The Commonwealth of Australia, are also required to submit:

- A copy of their acceptance letter to their Swedish University, or a student certificate from the international office of their Swedish University, proving that they are students. This document must be submitted in conjunction with the other required paper work for the visa to be processed.

### **Important note for students from the following Non-EU countries:**

Afghanistan, India, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Libya, North Korea, Viet Nam, Laos, Cambodia

Unfortunately, we are unable to get tourist visas for citizens of the above listed countries. If you have permanent residence in Sweden (meaning that you live in Sweden on a permanent basis) and have a residence permit for Sweden that is valid for at least 12 months, we can provide you with the paper work to apply for the tourist visa on your own. This paper work will include confirmation of your hotel stay(s) in St Petersburg and/or Moscow, as well as a voucher proving that you have paid for your trip from Sweden, through Finland, to Russia – as required by the General Consulate of the Russian Federation to apply for a tourist visa.

There are two Consulates of The Russian Federation located in Sweden: one in Stockholm, and another in Göteborg.

If you are a citizen of any of the above listed countries, you will be required to appear in person to apply for a Russian tourist visa.

To get more information about this, please contact one of the General Consulates of The Russian Federation in Sweden.

Stockholm:

<http://stockholm.rusembassy.org/>

Göteborg:

<http://gothenburg.rusembassy.org/>

### **Passport pictures for the application**

You will be required to include two passport pictures with the application. The pictures may be color, or black and white; they may be different pictures, but they must be printed on photographic paper – photocopies of pictures on plain paper will not be accepted \*\*.

Black and white pictures made from an automatic photo booth (that you find at bus/train stations, underground stations, malls, etc.) are perfectly fine.

\*\* Passport pictures printed on plain paper will lead to a rejection of your visa application by the Russian Consulate.

### **Rejected Russian Tourist Visa Applications**

If for whatever reason, the Russian Consulate rejects your visa application, Matka-Niinimäki is in no way responsible. You will not receive your money back if your visa application is rejected.

## **EARLY Russian Tourist visa processing**

In some cases, getting your Russian tourist visa processed before the Paper Work & Payment meeting may be necessary. Especially if you have trips planned before your Road Trip to Russia, outside of Sweden that demands you to have your passport. Early Russian tourist visa processing is an option, and this will require that you send your passport, visa application, passport pictures (and any other paper work) to us by registered mail, express mail, or DHL courier.

Early Russian tourist visa processing may be done between 8 September, and 10 October. If your Russian tourist visa is processed early, you may have your passport sent back to you by registered mail, express mail, or DHL courier at further expense. The other option is that we return your passport to you at the Paper Work & Payment meeting at your university.

If you wish to use the early Russian tourist visa processing method, please contact [russia@matka-niinimaki.fi](mailto:russia@matka-niinimaki.fi) for more details.

### **Postal options and approximate costs**

You may safely and in some cases, quickly send your documents for the tourist visa processing to us. You may also send documents for more than one person if you wish to save on the postage costs. Therefore, the postal options are:

**Registered** (requires a signature upon arrival): 3-4 days to Finland, cost is approximately 90-120 SEK depending on the weight, trackable through either posten.se or posti.fi

**Express** (requires a signature upon arrival): 2-3 days to Finland, cost is approximately 120-180 SEK depending on the weight, trackable through either posten.se or posti.fi

Visit your nearest post office for more information.

**DHL** document envelope: 1 day, costs is approximately 800 SEK

To get more information about DHL in Sweden, and to find the nearest DHL office to you, please see:

<http://www.dhl.se/publish/se/en.high.html>

If you would like to send your documents by DHL, you may arrange a pick-up from DHL, or go directly to a DHL office.

Upon your request, we will provide you with the correct postal address (and mobile phone number for the Air Way Bill) to send your documents to Finland.

## Russian Tourist Visa Prices

There are two price groups for the Russian tourist visa. The first is a group of European Union countries that reached an agreement with the Russian Federation on visa prices and processing times last year (2007).

**European Union (EU) citizens:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

The cost of a single-entry, tourist visa is **40 EUR**, and the processing time is 7 working days. An option is Express Visa Processing (3 days), and the cost of this is **80 EUR**.

**Non-EU Citizens:** all others countries including Denmark, the United Kingdom & Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland – these three EU countries did not sign the agreement with the Russian Federation.

The cost of a single-entry, tourist visa varies based on nationality. The costs vary from 30 EUR, up to 120 EUR. The cost of the Non-EU citizen's tourist visas are updated once every two weeks. Thus, the final cost of your visa will not be exactly clear until your paper work is taken in for processing.

The processing time for Non-EU citizen's tourist visa is 7 working days, with the exception of students from the United States of America, the United Kingdom & Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and the Commonwealth of Australia; the

tourist visa processing time for citizens of these four countries is 10 working days. There is no Express Visa Processing option for Non-EU citizens.

Here is a short list of Non-EU tourist visa prices from May 2008 – again, the current costs will be different by October:

Argentina = 60 EUR  
Australia = 60 EUR  
Brazil = 60 EUR  
Canada = 95 EUR  
Chile = 80 EUR  
Denmark = 60 EUR  
Hong Kong/BNO = 50 EUR  
Ireland = 90 EUR  
Japan = 70 EUR  
Malaysia = 60 EUR  
Mexico = 70 EUR  
New Zealand = 40 EUR  
Norway = 60 EUR  
Singapore = 60 EUR  
South Africa = 70 EUR  
South Korea = 80 EUR  
Switzerland = 80 EUR  
Taiwan = 40 EUR  
United Kingdom = 50 EUR  
USA = 120 EUR

**All of the individual Russian Tourist Visas will be processed at the Consulate General of the Russian Federation, in Turku, Finland.**

Niinimäki Travels is NOT responsible for ANY changes made by the Consulate General of the Russian Federation to the prices shown above.

## **Russian Tourist Visa Application**

All **Non-US Citizens** may download the English language version of the Russian tourist visa application from this web link:

<http://www.russianvisas.f9.co.uk/forms/ukvisa.pdf>

This is a 64 KB file in .PDF format. You will need Acrobat Reader to view this and print it out.

These are the simple instructions for ensuring that your application is not rejected:

- You will complete the questionnaire questions that are in ENGLISH
- Use a blue or black pen, and clearly print your answers
- You must fill in all of the boxes listed 1-20 in the SAME HANDWRITING

- You must date and sign the questionnaire at the bottom of the page

FAILURE to follow these instructions may lead to the REJECTION of your application

Here are the answers to the questions on this questionnaire:

1. Your present citizenship: the name of the country that issued you your passport
2. Surname: your family last names as they appear in your passport
3. First/second names: all of them as they appear in your passport
4. Previous names: the answer for this is NONE unless you are married
5. Date of birth:
6. Sex: Male or Female
7. Reason for visit to Russia: Tourism
8. Russian Departments to be visited: NONE
9. Route of journey:  
Arriving from: FINLAND to RUSSIA  
Departing from: RUSSIA to FINLAND
10. Date of Entry: see the ENTRY dates for your trip below
11. Date of Departure: see the DEPARTURE dates for your trip below
12. Your PASSPORT NUMBER:
13. Index and name of tourist company: MATKA-NIINIMAKI, Finland
14. Place of work or study: "STUDENT" and the name of your university in your HOME COUNTRY. Include the address if you know it
- 15: Do you have medical coverage in Russia: yes, you do - circle the text on the right hand side that says, "OTHER POLICY ATTACHED FOR APROVAL".
16. Permanent home address: your ADDRESS in your HOME COUNTRY
17. Place of birth: the city and country where you were born
18. Number of previous trips to Russia: if you have never been there, NONE / Date of last visit: if you have never been there, NONE
19. NONE
20. NONE

Then please make sure to sign your **SIGNATURE** on the bottom of the page, and date it (next to signature).

### **Entry and Departure Dates for the visa application question #10 and #11**

#### **Road Trip #82:**

Date of Entry: 5 November 2008

Date of Departure: 11 November 2008

#### **Road Trip #83:**

Date of Entry: 13 November 2008

Date of Departure: 16 November 2008

#### **Road Trip #84:**

Date of Entry: 19 November 2008

Date of Departure: 25 November 2008

#### **Road Trip #85:**

Date of Entry: 27 November 2008

Date of Departure: 2 December 2008

### **Road Trip #86:**

Date of Entry: 4 December 2008

Date of Departure: 9 December 2008

## **Russian Tourist Visa Application for US Citizens**

As of 1 April, 2004, all US Citizens must complete a different tourist visa application. You may download the MS Word document for printing from this web link:

<http://www.russianembassy.org/CONSULAT/Anketa04.doc>

If you have any problems completing this questionnaire, please contact [russia@matka-niinimaki.fi](mailto:russia@matka-niinimaki.fi) for assistance.

## **Paper Work & Payment Meeting**

For all of the trips, we will hold 30-60 minute long "Paper Work and Payment" meeting at each participating university, as long as there are at least 15 registered participants per university. These meetings are currently planned for 17-21 October 2008, and usually follow this format:

1<sup>st</sup> meeting day: Uppsala-Örebro-Linköping

2<sup>nd</sup> meeting day: Jönköping-Skövde-Göteborg

3<sup>rd</sup> meeting day: Lund-Malmö-Växjö

4<sup>th</sup> meeting day: Kalmar-Stockholm

During the meetings, all registered participants will submit their **passport**, two passport pictures and their completed, Russian tourist visa applications. Those participants not using the IBAN payment method, will also make their trip and tourist visa payments in full (please see payment options below for more information).

Detailed information about what is required of all registered participants at each meeting, and the location and timing will be explained by e-mail.

### **Late passport hand in**

If you are unable to hand in your passport at the meeting, you will be required to make other arrangements to send us your passport by registered mail, express mail, or DHL courier. The general deadline for us having your passport is 10 days prior to your trip departure from Stockholm.

Here is a look at your postal options for sending your documents:

**Registered** (requires a signature upon arrival): 3-4 days to Finland, cost is approximately 90-120 SEK depending on the weight, trackable through either [posten.se](http://posten.se) or [posti.fi](http://posti.fi)

**Express** (requires a signature upon arrival): 2-3 days to Finland, cost is approximately 120-180 SEK depending on the weight, trackable through either posten.se or posti.fi

Visit your nearest post office for more information.

**DHL** document envelope: 1 day, costs is approximately 800 SEK

To get more information about DHL in Sweden, and to find the nearest DHL office to you, please see:

<http://www.dhl.se/publish/se/en.high.html>

If you have further questions about this, please contact: [russia@matka-niinimaki.fi](mailto:russia@matka-niinimaki.fi)

## Optional programs

Each trip will also offer 1-4 optional programs at an additional cost of 10-25 EUR. More detailed information about the programs will be announced approximately 10 days before each trip departure. Registration for the optional programs will be done by e-mail, and payment for the optional programs will be made during the trips.

Here is a look at some of the previous optional programs.

St Petersburg:

- Guided tour of Pushkin, including Catherine's Palace and the Amber Room
- Guided tour of Peterhof, including the gardens
- Russian folk dance performance at Nikolajev's Palace
- Neva River, or Canal Cruise, including an interactive dance performance
- Guided tour to Kronstadt Island
- Russian evening, including dinner and entertainment

Moscow:

- Guided walking tour of the Kremlin
- (other programs to be announced)

## Stockholm Departure

All travelers will begin their ESN Sweden Road Trip to Russia from the Viking Line ferry terminal in Stockholm.

Depending on where you study in Sweden, you have several choices on how to get to Stockholm. These include the train (SJ), bus (SWEBUSS) using a Viking Line charter bus directly to the ferry terminal, or in some cases, perhaps even flying. Regardless of how you plan to get to Stockholm for the trip departure, it is recommended to purchase your train, bus or plane tickets as far in advance as possible, using your Swedish university student card to get a student discount.

If you would like to use a Viking Line charter bus (not available from all Swedish cities) to get directly to the terminal in Stockholm, you must purchase a ticket from a Viking Line ferry office in advance. This also requires our (Niinimäki) reservation number for the trip – we will provide that to you upon request. You may purchase one-way, or round trip Viking Line charter bus tickets.

Please see: <http://www.vikingline.se/>

If you plan to fly to either Stockholm-Arlanda, or Stockholm-Bromma, please keep in mind that the airline may in some cases, require that you have your passport to board the aircraft. Please check with the airline to find out what type of identification they require.

Here are the instructions on getting to the Viking Line ferry terminal from various places in Stockholm.

### **How to get to the VIKING LINE ferry terminal (Stadsgården) from Stockholm Central Station (T-Centralen):**

Leaving from T-Centralen: take any southbound subway and get off at "SLUSSEN". Take the northern exit marked "Mot Nacka- Värmdöbussarna".

You can either walk (1600m to your right) or take a bus to the ferry terminal. You can take any 400-numbered bus from Slussen, and get off at the Londonviadukten stop. If you have a valid SL ticket, there is no additional cost.

It is also possible to take the Viking line bus, either from Cityterminalen (located near T-Centralen), or from Slussen. These buses leave from a special bus stop marked, "Viking Line" or, "VIKINGTERMINALEN". It costs 30 SEK.

Here is a link to SL journey planner in English:  
<http://www.sl.se/Templates/SubStart.aspx?id=1906>

Destination: Londonviadukten

Here is a link to the Stockholm Subway system map:

<http://www.mariecurie.org/se/t-bana.html>

### **How to get to the VIKING LINE ferry terminal from Stockholm-Arlanda Airport:**

You may take the Arlanda Express train from the bottom floor of the Sky City Terminal inside Stockholm-Arlanda Airport. There are two Arlanda Express stations: Arlanda North and Arlanda South.

There are 4-6 departures per hour, and the trip to Stockholm City Station takes 20 minutes. With a valid student card, the ticket cost is 110 SEK per direction.

When you arrive at Stockholm City, it is a 50m walk to the Stockholm Central

Station (T-Centralen). Once you are there, follow the instructions above on getting to the Viking Line ferry terminal from T-Centralen.

Here is a link to the Arlanda Express:

<http://www.arlandaexpress.com>

### **How to get to the VIKING LINE ferry terminal from Stockholm-Bromma Airport:**

Airport buses (Flygbuss) from Stockholm-Bromma are scheduled to depart from the airport based on times that flights arrive. The Flygbuss departs from outside the airport terminal, and is non-stop to Stockholm City Station. The journey takes approximately 20 minutes depending on traffic, and tickets may be purchased on-board the bus.

When you arrive at Stockholm City, it is a 50m walk to the Stockholm Central Station (T-Centralen). Once you are there, follow the instructions above on getting to the Viking Line ferry terminal from T-Centralen.

## **Payment Options**

There are two options for making your trip and visa payment: full cash payment, in EUROS (only), when the the Paper Work & Payment Meeting is held at your university, or an International Bank Account Number – **IBAN** – payment prior to the meeting. There are no other payment options.

You may make your trip and visa payment by IBAN at any time before Wednesday, 15 October, 2008. However, before you do that, you must request an individual, **personal refence number** for your payment by e-mail. Send your request message for your refence number to: [russia@matka-niinimaki.fi](mailto:russia@matka-niinimaki.fi)

Once you have been given your personal reference number, you may make your IBAN payment using these banking details:

Account owner: **Matka-Niinimäki Oy Matkatoimisto**

Address: **Turuntie 5, FIN - 21870 RIIHIKOSKI, Finland**

Bank name: **Oripään Osuuspankki**  
(may also appear as POHJOLA BANK OYJ)

Bank address: **Yläneentie 2, FIN - 32500 ORIPÄÄ, Finland**  
(may also appear as Teollisuuskatu 18 HELSINKI)

Bank account number: **530902-211412**

IBAN number: **FI7253090220011412**  
(that is "FI" at the beginning as in F I N L A N D)

SWIFT (BIC) Code: **OKOYFIHH**

These IBAN details have been exactly the same for the last five years, and used by thousands of students (and their parents) to make the trip and visa payments. If you have problems succeeding in getting your payment to go through, please contact your bank.

The IBAN payment method is only worthwhile if you have a bank account in Sweden, or somewhere else in Europe. Money transfers from banks in North or South America, Asia, or Australia, are expensive and slow.

Please bring your payment receipt or a copy of it to the Paper Work & Payment meeting at your university.

To get more information about IBAN, please see:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Bank\\_Account\\_Number](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Bank_Account_Number)

## **ESN Sweden Group Leaders**

Depending on the size of each group for each trip, Group Leaders will be on board with you. Usually, this means one Group Leader per bus (40-65 travellers), and the Group Leaders are Swedish students that come from the ESN sections or student unions at the universities participating on the trips. The group leaders are there help communicate important information to you regarding the trip schedule, departure times for sightseeing tours or optional programs, to ensure that everyone is present and accounted for, and to help you communicate with the drivers when needed.

ESN Sweden Group Leaders for the trips are chosen by the executive board of ESN Sweden, and the local ESN sections.

## **Students from non-ESN Sweden universities**

If you are a student from a university in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, etc., that is not involved with ESN Sweden, you are welcome to join one of the trips. However, as we will not be holding a Paper Work & Payment Meeting at your university, you will be responsible for taking care of your documents for the Russian tourist visa processing by mail – unless you are able to come to one of the meetings.

All of the rules and instructions regarding registration apply to students from non-ESN Sweden universities.

If you would like to join an ESN Sweden Road Trip to Russia from a university that is not involved with ESN Sweden, please contact: [russia@matka-niinimaki.fi](mailto:russia@matka-niinimaki.fi) for more information about what is required of you.

## **Additional Information**

### **Out of the Office Dates**

There will be no e-mail replies to registration or cancellation messages between the times on the following dates:

17.00 CET, Thursday, 2 October to 09.00 CET, Monday, 6 October

12.00 CET, Wednesday, 15 October to 09.00 CET, Monday, 19 October

### **Cancellation rules, roommate selection, optional programs, exact departure times and locations from Sweden, etc.**

All of these issues will be covered in detail, by e-mail prior to the Paper Work & Payment Meeting, and further issues will be taken care of after the meeting.

### **Money issues**

#### HOW MUCH MONEY SHOULD I BRING WITH ME?

The way that you travel is different than probably everyone else on one of the trips. There is no way to say an amount that works for everyone.

In Russia, food (restaurants) and drinks (bars, night clubs) are cheaper than Sweden. In some places you can get extremely cheap things to eat and drink, and then 200m down the street, you can pay 500% more. That is one paradox about Russia, that causes me problems! With a little looking, you can easily find inexpensive places to eat.

Many other things in Russia - gifts, souvenirs, CDs, DVDs, statues of your favorite USSR Communist Party Chairmen - are inexpensive. If you find a flea market, you can bargain for things as well, although, the prices of Cds and DVDs are usually final.

#### WHAT CURRENCY CAN I USE ON THE TRIPS?

The Swedish Kronor OR Euro on the Viking Line ferry journeys, the Euro in Finland, and the Russian Rouble in Russia.

The official exchange rate to the Euro is:

Thursday, 21 August

#### **1 Euro = 36.760 Russian Rouble**

1 Russian Rouble (RUB) = 0.028 Euro (EUR) Interbank rate +/- 2%

This means:

You buy 1 Euro : 37.760 Russian Rouble

You sell 1 Euro : 35.307 Russian Rouble

You buy 1 Russian Rouble : 0.028 Euro

You sell 1 Russian Rouble : 0.027 Euro

Median price = 36.02740 / 36.03876 (bid/ask)

Estimated price based on daily US dollar rates.

To get the exchange rates for other currencies, see also:

<http://www.oanda.com/convert/classic>

That is of course the "official" bank rate - rates in St Petersburg and Moscow may vary between 33-38 Roubles per Euro.

SHOULD I CHANGE MONEY TO ROUBLES BEFORE THE TRIP?

Sure, if you want to! The exchange rate in Russia may be better or it may be worse, but since none of you will probably be changing 5000 EUR, the difference in the exchange rates may be about as much as one large beer in a restaurant.

WHAT FOREIGN CURRENCY SHOULD I USE TO BUY ROUBLES?

We suggest Euros, but you will be able to change Kronor at the exchange window in the hotels.

Also remember that you will be paying for your optional programs on Day Two of your trip (during the drive from Turku to the Finnish-Russian border), in Euros. Furthermore, if there are any stops in Finland on the way to and or from Russia, you will only be able to use Euros to buy anything. Swedish Kronor have not been an accepted currency in Finland since 1809, and Roubles were last used in Finland in 1917!

WHERE CAN I EXCHANGE MONEY IN RUSSIA?

There are places to exchange money all over the place, but they often require some form of identification (your passport). There is a currency exchange window in the lobby of the hotel in St Petersburg and in the hotel in Moscow.

ARE THERE BANK MACHINES IN RUSSIA?

Yes, all over the place.

These machines allow you to withdraw Roubles with your Visa or MasterCard, or a bank card (Cirrus, Maestro or Visa Electron, for example) that works in foreign countries (that depends on your card - check with your bank). Also, make sure that you know what your card's PIN is!

CAN I TAKE TRAVELLERS CHECKS WITH ME?

Do not take travellers checks with you. They are difficult to cash and in some case rather expensive to cash.

IS IT SAFE TO USE A CREDIT CARD IN RUSSIA?

Just as safe as anywhere else. However, you will find that in some places, it is not that widely accepted. Larger, more expensive stores will take credit cards, and smaller stores or markets may not.

**Friends, non-students, relatives, etc.**

If you know someone that would like to join you on one of the trips – possibly even someone not in Sweden – they are more than welcome to join you, so long as there are places available. Moreover, the rules and requirements about their documents (Schengen, or Swedish visas in their passports) are just the same as other students at Swedish universities.

Also, students from other universities in Sweden may also register for one of the trips. However, their Russian tourist visa will also have to be processed with the rest of the groups. This means that you will have to have their passport, completed Russian tourist visa paper work, and trip + visa payment at the Paper Work & Payment meeting. For more information about this, contact the e-mail address above.

## **Travel hints**

**WATER:** Do not drink water from any faucet (tap water) in Russia! The water contains different bacteria than you are used to and it may make you feel ill. It is fine for brushing your teeth, showering and cleaning up.

You will be able to buy bottled water from the buses at a very inexpensive price. These are sold in 2 liter plastic bottles and you can pay with Roubles, Euros or Swedish Kronor. You will also find many types of bottled water for sale in the hotel lobbies and in shops located near the hotels.

If you notice that the shower in your hotel room is only flowing with cold or brackish water, have no fear! Let the water run for 5 to 10 minutes and then see if it improves. Usually after that, you will have plenty of clean, hot water.

**FOOD on the bus:** it is a good idea to bring something to eat and drink for the first day of the trip (Day Two). Once you arrive in Finland, there will only be one stop between Turku and the Finnish-Russian border.

**PASSPORTS:** your passport and tourist visa will be registered at the hotel reception desk on Day Two of the trip. After this has been done, your passports will be returned to you at an announced time. Be absolutely certain that when you have your passport, you know where it is. You may not lose your passport!

**SURPRISE PAPER CHECKS:** every now and then, the Russian police, militia, military, special police or frontier police (armed police) make surprise checks of our buses. There is no need to be frightened or alarmed - it is all part of the Road Trip experience. They will often want to check that you have a visa and see your passport. This is especially true when we enter the frontier zone just a few kilometers outside of Vyborg on the way home. These checks usually take about 10 minutes and then they let the bus continue on its journey.

**VALUABLES:** there is no need to bring expensive jewelry or other valuables with you on any of trips. You can take cameras, video cameras etc. with you - and do take as many pictures as possible! However, when you go somewhere where you are asked to leave your coat or bag (cloak room), do NOT leave anything even slightly valuable in your pockets. Keep your cameras, wallets, money wallets etc. on your person at all times.

**BANK CARDS/CREDIT CARDS/WALLETS:** and purses too. Empty out your wallets and purses of important items like driver's license, extra bankcards, or receipts that you need back home - basically, anything that you do not need in Russia but cannot afford to lose. There is no need to lose these types of cards that cannot be used in Russia.

**\*\* The exception to this is YOUR STUDENT CARD - take this with you! \*\***

At many tourist attractions (museums, churches, etc.) you can get a student discount. Your student card may be from your Swedish university, your home university, or an ISIC student card that you may have received from Kilroy Travels.

**HOTEL & FERRY BEHAVIOR:** If anything is broken in the rooms or taken from the rooms, or Viking Line ferry cabins, security will notify your group leader or bus driver about this. You are responsible for everything in your hotel room, and in your ferry cabin.

**Sleeping bags/pillows:** you do not need a sleeping bag – but a pillow is a good idea for the drives to and from Russia.

**Towels, sheets, blankets:** you do not need to bring any of these with you – you will be staying in hotels that provide these for you during your stay.

**MOBILE TELEPHONES:** if you are planning to bring your GSM telephone with you to Russia, Swedish mobile telephone operators have roaming agreements with local networks in St Petersburg and Moscow. However, calls back to Sweden may cost as much as **3-5 EUR/minute**. To receive a call from somewhere else (outside of Russia) may also cost approximately 1-2 EUR/minute. SMS also works well in Russia – check with your mobile phone network service provider to find out what the charges are.

**ELECTRICITY:** Russian electrical outlets are the same plug type as in Western Europe - 220V.

## **Passport Application Information**

If you are from a country within the European Union, it may be that you do not have an international passport (or travel passport) that allows you to travel outside the EU. If you do have a passport, it is also a good idea to check that it is valid, and that it will remain valid for six months after the last day of the trip that you would like to join.

In the case that you need to apply for a new passport, or have your current passport renewed, you must do this from your home country's embassy or consular section in Sweden.

Please note that different countries have different rules for applying for, or renewing a passport. You may be asked to apply in person; you may be required to have paper work from the police station of your home city, and the time required to make you a passport may vary. In some cases, it may be impossible for you to be issued a passport.

Below is a list of countries with contact information to their embassies and consular sections. If you need to apply/renew your passport, it is recommended that you contact your embassy by telephone, e-mail, or read the information posted on their web site, to find out what is required of you for this process.

**\*\* You may register for a place on one of the trips WITHOUT having a passport, but you will need to have a passport two weeks before the departure of the trip that you are registered for. \*\***

**Austrian Embassy, Stockholm:**

Österreichische Botschaft Kommendörsgatan 35/V - 11458 Stockholm telephone: +46 (0) 8 665 1770

Web page: <http://www.aussenministerium.at/stockholm>

**Belgian Embassy, Stockholm:**

Villagatan 13 A, Box 26114 - 10041 Stockholm telephone + 46 8 534 80 200

Web page: <http://www.diplomatie.be/stockholm/>

**French Embassy, Stockholm:**

Ambassade de France en Suède, 13 Kommendörsgatan, 102 43 Stockholm telephone: +46 8 45 95 300

Web page: <http://www.ambafrance-se.org/>

**German Embassy, Stockholm:**

Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Skarpögatan 9 - 11527 Stockholm telephone: +46 8 670 1500

Web page: <http://www.stockholm.diplo.de/sv/Startseite.html>

**German Honorary Consulate, Göteborg:**

Honorarkonsul der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Advokatfirman Vinge KB, Nils Ericssonsgatan 17 - 41103 Göteborg telephone: +46 31 722 3600

**German Honorary Consulate, Linköping:**

Honorarkonsul der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, c/o HANSA Consulting AB, Westmansgatan 47 - 58216 Linköping telephone: +46 13 34 20 035, mobile: +46 70 268 6562

**Italian Embassy, Consulate Chancery, Stockholm:**

Oakhill - Djurgården - 115 1 Stockholm Cancelleria Consolare, telephone: +46 8 54567100

Web page: <http://www.italianembassy.se/>

**Consolato Onorario d'Italia, Göteborg:**

Gibraltar Herrgård, Giblartargatan 17 - 41258 Göteborg telephone: +46 31 711 0381

**Consolato Onorario d'Italia, Malmö:**

Console Birgit GIUBBI, Sångelekgatan 5 - 21579 Malmö

**Royal Netherlands Embassy, Stockholm:**

Götgatan 16 A - 10465 Stockholm

telephone: +46 8 556 933 00

Web page: <http://www.netherlands-embassy.se/>

**Portuguese Embassy, Stockholm:**

Narvavägen 32 - 11522 Stockholm

telephone: +46 8 662 6028

(no web page found)

**Spanish Embassy, Stockholm:**

Djurgårdsvägen 21 - 11521 Stockholm

telephone: +46 8 667 9430

Web page: [http://www.spaininformation.org/e\\_SpanishEmbassy.html](http://www.spaininformation.org/e_SpanishEmbassy.html)

**Spanish Consulate, Göteborg:**

Konsul Claes Karlzén, Advokatfirman Delphi & Co

Östra Hamngatan 29 - 41110 Göteborg

telephone: +46 31 10 72 00, Mobile: +46 709 25 25 50

**Swiss Embassy, Stockholm:**

Valhallavägen 64 - 10041 Stockholm

telephone: +46 8 676 79 00

Web page: [http://www.eda.admin.ch/stockholm\\_emb/e/home.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/stockholm_emb/e/home.html)

## External Links

Here are some links related to the ESN Sweden Road Trips to Russia. More links will be added later.

Wikipedia article about St Petersburg

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St\\_Petersburg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Petersburg)

Wikipedia article about Moscow

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow>

Wikipedia article about Helsinki

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helsinki>

St Petersburg weather forecast

<http://www.intellicast.com/Local/Weather.aspx?location=RSXX0091>

Moscow weather forecast

<http://www.intellicast.com/Local/Weather.aspx?location=RSXX0063>

Azimut Hotel in St Petersburg

<http://eng.azimuthhotels.ru/content/?id=13>

Hotel Izmailovo Vega in Moscow

<http://www.hotelizmailovo-vega.ru/eng/common/>

State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg

<http://www.hermitagemuseum.org/>

A guide for St Petersburg

<http://www.saint-petersburg.com/>

Pushkin and Catherine's Palace

<http://www.infoservices.com/stpete/pushkin/>

St Petersburg Metro map in English and Russian (worth printing out!)

<http://www.infoservices.com/stpete/map/metro800.html>

Mariinsky Theater in St Petersburg (official site)

<http://www.mariinsky.spb.ru/en>

Bolshoi Theater in Moscow (official site - partially under construction)

<http://www.bolshoi.ru/en/>

Exploring Moscow

<http://www.geographia.com/moscow/>

Moscow Metro map in English and Russian (worth printing out!)

<http://www.gotoru.com/images/mmap.gif>

St Petersburg night life guide

<http://www.world66.com/europe/russia/stpetersburg/nightlife>

Moscow night life guide

<http://www.world66.com/europe/russia/moscow/nightlife>

The Kremlin

<http://www.kreml.ru/en/main/info/>