



ORT Mission to Russia

St. Petersburg and Moscow | September 10 – 17, 2017
Post-mission, Vilnius, Lithuania | September 16 – 19, 2017

ITINERARY (subject to change)

Day 1 - Sunday, September 10, 2017

WELCOME TO ST. PETERSBURG!

Participants arrive and are met at baggage claim and transported to the Kempinski Hotel Maika 22
Arrival at the hotel/check-in

Located in the heart of St Petersburg, in an aristocratic mansion built in 1853, the 5 star Kempinski hotel is flanked by Palace Square and the Hermitage Museum, just a five minutes' walk from the Nevsky Prospect and close to all major sights and shopping.

Opening Dinner – Welcome, introductions and overview of mission

Overnight – Kempinski Hotel

Day 2 - Monday, September 11, 2017

Breakfast at the hotel followed by World ORT in Russia Briefing by David Benish – Head of the World ORT Representative Office for CIS, Central Asia, Caucasian States & Baltic States

Since its return to Russia in 1991, ORT has played a pivotal role in the renewal of Jewish community life in the country, recreating a dynamic educational network serving approximately 17,000 people.

Depart hotel for the ORT de Gunzburg School

The flagship de Gunzburg School, chosen by parents specifically for its quality instruction and substantial Jewish education thanks to World ORT, is the premier institution of the ORT Educational Network in the former Soviet Union and has a record of academic excellence.

After a warm welcome, we will have the opportunity to meet students, staff and parents; learn about the ORT connection to this institution, how its STEM curriculum has given the school a record of academic excellence and see firsthand the impact of the funds raised by ORT America.*

Lunch at the School



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Afternoon – Depart for a tour of the summer palace and park of Catherine the Great

We will travel on the high-speed Hydrofoil to the Summer Palace of Catherine the Great, embarking from Peterhoff pier and enjoying scenic views of St. Petersburg en route. Pushkin is the former country residence of Russian emperors and a fascinating monument to the architectural and gardening arts of the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Dinner – Padovie

Night tour of the opening of the bridges

Enjoy an unforgettable guided night boat ride to see the famous opening bridges of St. Petersburg down the Neva River and view the beautiful illumination of historical buildings, palaces and the city.

Overnight – Kempinski Hotel

Day 3 - Tuesday, September 12

Following breakfast we will depart the hotel for the Jewish Exposition at the Ethnographic Museum

The Russian Museum of Ethnography is one of the largest and most famous museums in the world founded in 1895. In 1934 it became an independent scientific and cultural institution. The visit will offer us the ability to understand the many different ethnicities of the Russian people and their everyday cultural life.

After the museum we will head to the **YESOD (the Jewish Community Center)**

Opened in 2005, YESOD houses 6 Jewish organizations (Hessed Avraam Charity Center, Adain Lo Family Center, Hillel Student Center, Granatik Children's Center, the Library & Eitan Jewish Education Center and the ORT Education Center). We'll be briefed by the director of YESOD and learn about the World ORT IT center, a vocational training hub for the community located here.

Lunch – YESOD



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Walking tour of Jewish St. Petersburg and visit to the Grand Coral Synagogue

The second largest synagogue in Europe, the Grand Coral Synagogue stands discreetly off the main thoroughfare, and is known for its attractive neo-Byzantine and Moorish design.

Time to explore and enjoy some shopping

Depart hotel for an evening at the Tzar's Winter Palace with a private tour at the Hermitage State Museum – closed to the public

The State Hermitage occupies six magnificent building along the River Neva in the heart of St. Petersburg. The Winter Palace, the residence of Russian Czars, was built by architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli in 1762 for Empress Elizabeth, daughter of Peter the Great. The vast collections at the Hermitage include works by Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael and Titian, and a unique collection of pieces by Rembrandt and Rubens.

Enjoy an elegant dinner at the Russian Ampir Restaurant

Overnight - Kempinski Hotel

Day 4 – Wednesday, September 13

Breakfast and check out of the hotel (luggage will be loaded onto the buses once we leave the hotel)

Private performance at the Children's Ballet School

The St. Petersburg State Children's Ballet Company was founded in 1992 by Anatoly Nikiforov - a friend of the legendary dancer Rudolf Nureyev - and Irina Aleksandrovna Safonova, former performers at the historic Mariinsky Theatre.

Lunch and visit to the Birthplace of the Northern Capital – Peter & Paul Fortress

The Peter and Paul Fortress, located in the city center on Hare Island on the north bank of the Neva River. Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great, the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul is the main part of the complex and is the burial place of the Czars, beginning with Peter the Great.



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Head to the train station for our Moscow departure - We will be treated to our own business class coach on the Sapsan train.

Sapsan is a high-speed train, operated by Russian railways. In December 2009 it ran its first journey between Moscow and St. Petersburg and since July 2010 continues to run both ways. The journey to Moscow will take 3 hours 45 minutes.

Arrive in Moscow - Check in to the Intercontinental Moscow Tverskaya

Located in Tverskaya, the main street of Moscow leading straight into the Kremlin. The hotel combines contemporary design with local flavor and is within walking distance to Red Square, Christ the Savior Cathedral and many other attractions.

Enjoy a light snack and a restful night's sleep

Overnight - Intercontinental Hotel

Day 5 - Thursday, September 14

Early breakfast

Depart for ORT Moscow Technology School, Gymnasium #1540, where David Benish will meet and brief us.

Take part in a classroom experience, meet students, teachers and administrators, and hear about the value of the ORT program from parents. This school was established in 1994 as a new type of institution for general and vocational education, offering technology customized for innovative training programs; its ORT technology center was launched in 1995.

Lunch close to the school

Depart the school and head to the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center - Tour and informal lecture.

The largest Jewish museum in the world, it is dedicated to the complex history of Russian Jewry, presented via personal testimony, archival video footage and interactive displays.

Return to the hotel to freshen up for dinner

Walk to dinner at Café Pushkin - known for its classical ambience, antique-filled décor and formal service

Overnight - Intercontinental Hotel



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Day 6 – Friday, September 15

Breakfast at the Hotel

Depart for the second ORT school visit – ORT Tekhiya, Center of Education # 1311 and ORT Moscow Technology College (The first Moscow Educational Complex)

The ORT Tekhiya Center of Education # 1311, a secondary school, opened in 1991 as the first Jewish state school in post-Soviet Russia, and an ORT technology center was launched there in 2002. By 2006 the school included a pre-school and an elementary, junior high and high school, and in 2010 a new building was added to house the pre-school, auditorium, sports halls and canteen. We'll meet students, teachers and administrators, and hear how the ORT program enriches their lives.

World ORT established its partnership with the ORT Moscow Technology College in 1996, with a focus on information and communication technology (ICT) in vocational training. ORT installed new computer laboratories, subsequently opened a vocational training center, and three vocational training schools merged with the college. The college partners with ORT Strasbourg in France, offering student and staff exchanges. You will meet students and instructors and learn how ORT enhances their experience.

Return to hotel to relax and prepare for Shabbat

Depart for the Moscow Choral Synagogue - Services and Shabbat Dinner

Moscow Choral Synagogue is the main synagogue in Russia, located in the central Beasmanny district, close to the former Jewish settlement in Zaryadye. We will hear about its history since it opened in 1906, including its recent restoration. You will enjoy Kabbalat Shabbat services along with local residents, after which our group will take part in a Shabbat dinner with leaders of the local Jewish community.

Overnight – Intercontinental Hotel

Day 7 – Saturday, September 16

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a leisurely morning exploring the city, sleeping or attending morning services

You might explore Red Square on your own and take a look inside the Lenin Mausoleum, the resting place of the founder of the Soviet state, stroll to nearby shopping areas, or go to the spa. The options are endless!



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For those going on the post mission to Vilnius, pack and check out of the hotel

Lunch on your own

Meet back at the hotel for the guided Metro Tour Moscow

One of the most significant memorials of the era of the Soviet Union, the Metro is renowned for its exceptional beauty, showcases the finest sculptures, chandeliers and murals reminiscent of palaces, and is an artistic wonder to behold. Continue for a walking tour of Old Arbat, a pedestrian street in existence since the 15th century, and now an art center of the city.

Return to the hotel to freshen up

Closing dinner - Kalina Bar

Say our goodbyes to those not traveling to Vilnius | Either return to the hotel or depart for the short flight to Vilnius.

Overnight - Moscow - Intercontinental Hotel | Vilnius - Kempinski Hotel

Day 8 - Sunday, September 17, 2017

Breakfast and Check out

A coach will take the group to the airport - until next time L'hitraot or Da svedaneeya, Schasleevava pootee! (Goodbye and have a good trip)