

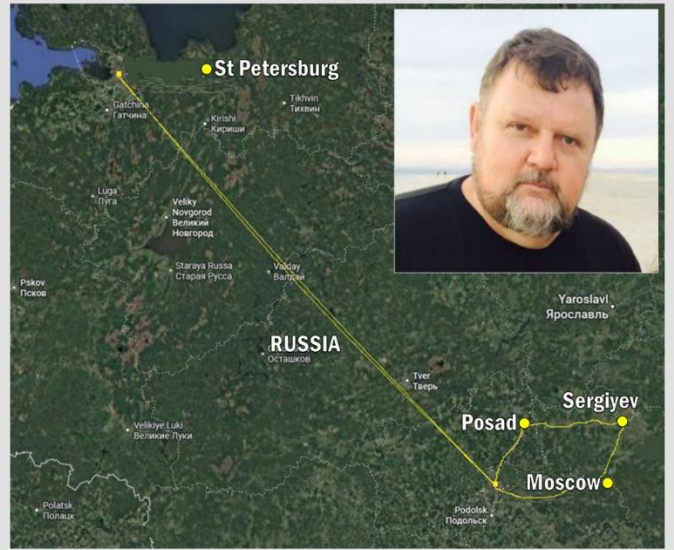
RADIO PULPIT

Tour/Pilgrimage

to

RUSSIA

with
Dr Eugene Botha
 Departure date:
Sunday, 20 September 2026



Christ the Saviour Cathedral



St Basil's Cathedral



Moskva river cruise



Danilovsky

ITINERARY

(B)-Breakfast (D)-Dinner (*)-Meal on board the aircraft

Day 1: Sunday 20 Sept	JOHANNESBURG – DOHA Meet at the OR Tambo International airport Qatar Airways counter for check-in at 17:00. Depart Johannesburg at 20:55 for Doha. Overnight on BOARD (*)
Day 2: Monday 21 Sept	DOHA – MOSCOW Arrive in Doha at 06:10. Connect to the 08:50 flight for arrival at 14:15 in Moscow (<i>capital of Russia and one of the largest cities in Europe</i>). Clear passport control and collect your luggage. Meet your English speaking assistant for the arrival process and transfer to your hotel for check-in. Balance of the day at leisure. Dinner at the hotel restaurant and overnight in MOSCOW (*) (D)
Day 3: Tuesday 22 Sept	MOSCOW Start your day with a hearty breakfast at your hotel to fuel up for an exciting day of exploration. Meet your guide at 09:00 in the hotel lobby to begin your day of sightseeing. Enjoy a panoramic Moscow bus tour (<i>see iconic landmarks, stunning architecture, and famous streets of the city</i>). Visit the magnificent Cathedral of Christ the Saviour (<i>one of the largest and most beautiful Orthodox churches in the world</i>). Take a stroll through the serene Alexander Garden (<i>located near the Kremlin, and enjoy its monuments, fountains, and the famous Tomb of the Unknown Soldier</i>). Continue your walk-through Red Square (<i>a beautiful square the heart of Moscow bordered by some of the most famous Russian sites</i>). You'll visit the stunning St. Basil's Cathedral (<i>with its colourful onion domes and intricate interior, offering a deep dive into Russian history and architecture</i>). Enjoy some free time to explore, shop, or relax on your own around Red Square. After the walking tour, relax with a one-hour Moskva River Cruise (<i>offering scenic views of the city from the water</i>). Return to your hotel with time to relax before dinner. Enjoy a delicious dinner and overnight in MOSCOW (B)(D)
Day 4: Wednesday 23 Sept	MOSCOW Since your day starts early, you'll pick up your breakfast box from the hotel reception at 05:55 to enjoy on the go. Meet your guide in the hotel lobby at 06:00, ready to start your day of spiritual and cultural exploration. You will be transferred to Danilovsky Monastery (<i>one of the oldest monasteries in Moscow, known for its historical and religious significance</i>). At one of the cathedrals within the monastery grounds we'll attend a morning service (<i>starts at 06:45 and provides an authentic Russian Orthodox experience</i>). After the service, enjoy a guided excursion around Danilovsky Monastery (<i>learn about its rich history, the role it played in Moscow's religious life, and the beautiful architecture that dates back centuries</i>). After your visit, you'll return to the hotel by 16:00 giving you time to relax and unwind. Enjoy a well-deserved dinner at the hotel at 19:00 after a full day of exploration. Overnight MOSCOW (B)(D)
Day 5: Thursday 24 Sept	MOSCOW – SUZDAL Start your day with breakfast at the hotel, then check out and prepare for your journey. Meet your guide at the hotel lobby at 09:00 to begin your exciting day of exploration. Enjoy a visit to the renowned Tretyakov Gallery (<i>one of Russia's premier art museums</i>). The tour will include



Suzdal Kremlin



St Nicholas church



Trinity Lavra of St Sergius



Sapsan train



Spilled Blood Church



Peter and Paul Cathedral



Palace Square

a special lecture on the significance of icons, particularly in the dedicated Icon Rooms, offering deeper insight into Russian religious art. After your visit, you'll board your bus for the scenic four-hour journey to **Suzdal** (*within the historic region of the Golden Ring; feels less like a modern town and more like an open-air museum with no high-rise buildings nor busy city noise; just rolling green meadows, wooden cottages, and a skyline dotted with onion-domed churches and monastery walls*). Sit back and enjoy the views along the way. Upon arrival in Suzdal, check in to your hotel and settle in. Savor a traditional dinner at your hotel, sampling the local flavours of the region. Overnight in **SUZDAL (B)(D)**

Day 6: SUZDAL – SERGIEV POSAD

**Friday
25 Sept**

Enjoy a hearty breakfast before checking out of your hotel in Suzdal. Embark on a guided city tour of Suzdal, including a visit to the **Suzdal Kremlin** (*perched gently above a bend in the Kamenka River; historic heart of the charming town of Suzdal, and one of the most atmospheric places in Russia*) and one of the town's **ancient churches** (*beyond the Kremlin walls, you'll find a cluster of beautiful churches along the Kamenka River*). See the impressive collection of religious icons such as the **Church of St Nicholas** (*wooden church*) and the striking white-stone **Church of the Assumption** (*Uspenskaya Church*). After the city tour, board the bus for a scenic four-hour drive to **Sergiev Posad** (*one of Russia's most important spiritual destinations and a highlight of the famous Golden Ring route*). Upon arrival, check in to your hotel in Sergiev Posad. Dinner and overnight in **SERGIEV POSAD (B)(D)**

Day 7: SERGIEV POSAD – MOSCOW

**Saturday
26 Sept**

Start your day with breakfast at the hotel, then check out and prepare for your journey back to Moscow. Head to the iconic **St. Trinity Lavra** (*one of Russia's most important monasteries*). Explore the monastery's different churches, each with its unique history and significance. Your tour will offer an in-depth look into the spiritual and architectural grandeur of the Lavra. Visit the **Seminary** (*associated with the Lavra, where you can learn about its role in Russian religious education and its historical importance*). After a fulfilling visit, board the bus for a scenic two-hour 30minute journey back to Moscow. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and take some time to relax. Enjoy a delicious dinner at the hotel, or venture out to explore the dining scene in Moscow. Overnight in **MOSCOW (B)(D)**

Day 8: MOSCOW – ST PETERSBURG

**Sunday
27 Sept**

Start your day with breakfast at the hotel. If you're leaving early, you'll be provided with a breakfast box. After breakfast, check out of your hotel. Your driver will pick you up at 07:00 and transfer you to the railway station. Enjoy a comfortable four-hour journey from Moscow to **St. Petersburg** (*one of Europe's most elegant and historically rich cities, often called the "cultural capital" of Russia*) aboard the **Sapsan high-speed train** (*seats only, no meal provided*). Relax and enjoy the scenic ride. Upon arrival at the St. Petersburg railway station, you'll be greeted by your guide for the day. Visit the **Church of the Spilled Blood** (*one of the most beautiful and historically significant churches in St. Petersburg, known for its stunning mosaics and vibrant onion domes*). You will also visit the impressive **Kazan Cathedral** (*one of the city's most famous landmarks, located on Nevsky Prospekt*). Head to **Nevsky Prospekt** (*the main avenue of St. Petersburg*). Time for shopping and exploring the shops, cafes, and local boutiques along this vibrant street. After the tour, you'll be transferred to your hotel in St. Petersburg, where you can check in and relax. Enjoy a delicious dinner at your hotel, sampling the local cuisine. Overnight in **ST PETERSBURG (B)(D)**

Day 9: ST PETERSBURG

**Monday
28 Sept**

After breakfast meet your guide for a panoramic St Petersburg city tour. It includes photo stops at the **Rostra Columns** (*two iconic monuments located on Vasilievsky Island*), see **St. Isaac's Square** (*one of the city's most elegant and historically significant public spaces, located in the heart of the historic centre*), and the **Peter and Paul Cathedral** (*one of the most important historical landmarks in St Petersburg located within the Peter and Paul Fortress on an island in the Neva River*), with a brief walk around the cathedral's grounds. Embark on a visit to the **Hermitage Museum** (*one of the largest and most prestigious museums in the world*). Explore its vast collection of art, including works by famous artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, and Michelangelo. Enjoy some free time to stroll around **Palace Square** (*iconic central public square*), taking in the grand architecture and the iconic **Winter Palace** (*home of the Hermitage Museum*). It's a perfect spot for photos and to soak in the history of St. Petersburg. Return to your hotel for an early dinner, giving you time to relax before your evening activities. **Optional:** In the evening, why not enjoy an optional **ballet or opera performance** at one of St. Petersburg's renowned theatres, such as the **Mariinsky Theatre** or the **Mikhailovsky Theatre**. The world-class performances here are a highlight of any visit to the city. Overnight in **ST PETERSBURG (B)(D)**



Peterhof



St Petersburg



Fabergé Museum

<p>Day 10: Tuesday 29 Sept</p>	<p>ST PETERSBURG – MOSCOW</p> <p>Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before starting your exciting day. Meet your guide in the hotel lobby to begin your excursion. You'll be transferred by bus to the pier, where you'll board the hydrofoil for a 45-minute scenic ride across the Gulf of Finland. Enjoy the views as you approach the stunning palace and its expansive gardens. Upon arrival, explore Peterhof (also known as the "Russian Versailles") Visit the Great Palace (a masterpiece of Russian baroque architecture, and stroll through its stunning gardens and fountains, especially the famous Grand Cascade). After your visit, you'll return to St. Petersburg by hydrofoil and head to the Fabergé Museum (home to an impressive collection of over 4,000 works of art, including the famous Fabergé eggs and its treasure trove of Russian imperial jewellery, art, and decorative pieces). Dinner at a local café, enjoying European cuisine. Transfer to the railway station for Sapsan high-speed train departing at 20:55 from St. Petersburg for arrival Moscow after midnight at 00:45. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight in MOSCOW (B)(D)</p>
<p>Day 11: Wednesday 30 Sept</p>	<p>MOSCOW – DOHA</p> <p>Leisurely breakfast at the hotel and check-out by 10:30. Meet your guide at the hotel for lunch at a local café with European cuisine. Transfer to the Sheremetyevo International Airport (one of Moscow's main international airports) for check-in by 14:00: Our flight departs at 17:05 for arrival in Doha at 22:30. Connect to the flight departing after midnight at 01:30 for Johannesburg and overnight on BOARD (B)(L)(*)</p>
<p>Day 12: Thursday 01 Oct</p>	<p>JOHANNESBURG</p> <p>Our Russian Pilgrimage has come to an end and we arrive home with a new circle of friends. Touch-down at the Johannesburg OR Tambo International airport is at 09:00 (*)</p>

TOUR PRICE: R53,980 per person calculated as follows:

Special group airfare: R15,160 (including check-in luggage, current fuel surcharge and taxes dated 25 March)

Flights subject to availability at the time of booking – early booking essential. **Land arrangements:**

Rates will be covered by the service providers up to a value of R17,00 to the US Dollar. The Rand value of our tour price may be adjusted when balance payment is due, in the unforeseen event of the Rand devaluating more than R17,00 against the Dollar.

Please make provision and allow for a Rand value devaluation if any. Deviation supplement of R1,500 will apply for travellers breaking away and not utilising our group flights. Rates are based on a minimum of **24 passengers** travelling together

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Travel insurance is strongly recommended. There are currently however no mainstream South African travel insurance companies that will issue valid leisure travel cover for Russia. While some of these offer "worldwide" policies, Russia is effectively excluded or claims will not be honoured under current conditions.

MONEY MATTERS:

A non-refundable deposit of **R5,000 per person** is required before **10 April 2026** to confirm your reservation.

A second payment of R10,000 per person is payable by end May. The balance of the tour price is due **12 weeks** prior to departure (22 June), upon which the exchange rate of the day may apply if the Rand devaluates more than R17,00 to the US Dollar. Please ensure that your funds are available by then as balance payment is due 72 hours after invoicing due to the volatility of the Rand.

Our banking details is reflected on the bottom of the reservation form

RESERVATION PROCEDURES:

Please complete the reservation form and make your deposit payment using your **SURNAME** followed by the code **20SepEB** as reference when making payment to our account. Kindly forward your reservation form, copy of the page in your passport reflecting your passport number and payment receipt to E-mail: tafelberg@stargateint.co.za or WhatsApp: **083 453-6505**

INCLUDED:

- **Economy return flights** with **Turkish Airlines** including taxes and current fuel surcharge dated 23 March 2026
- **Accommodation in Moscow:** 4 nights in a 3* hotel
- **Accommodation in Suzdal:** 1 night in a 3* hotel
- **Accommodation in Sergiev Posad:** 1 night in a 3* hotel
- **Accommodation in Saint Petersburg:** 3 nights 4* hotel
- **Breakfast:** Buffet breakfast at hotels (or breakfast box in accordance with the program)
- **Dinners:** Provided at the hotels
- **Transport services:** In a private coach according to the program, based on the number of participants.

EXCLUDED:

- **Single room** supplement (optional) R4,980
- **Travel insurance** arranged by the traveller if available
- **Any** item not mentioned under "included"

Note: Itinerary subject to change. Sequence of daily visits will vary according to operational viability and security purposes at the discretion of the tour leader and tour guides

- **Transfers:** All transfers with English-speaking assistants
- **Registration fees:** At the hotel in Saint Petersburg
- **Headphones in museums:** Saint Petersburg museums
- **All visits and excursions:** Including entrance fees as per the program
- **Local English-speaking guides:** Provided for excursions
- **Train tickets:** 2 Sapsan speed train tickets (Moscow - St. Petersburg - Moscow, economy seats, no meal)
- **Accommodation and catering for driver and guide:** In Suzdal and Sergiev Posad
- **Supervisory control:** For the overall complete trip
- **Tipping** to tour guides, bus drivers and hotel staff

For more information,
please contact



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