

2018 - WORLD CUP IS COMING HOME (19 DAYS)

GENERAL ITINERARY

*** Special Thanks to my childhood friend Stanislav Lesovoy who made my trip worry-free, well-planned, entertaining, and fun! ***

** Since it was not my first visit to St Petersburg and Moscow, and this trip's main focus was the World Cup, many tourist sites were omitted or not mentioned in this itinerary **

28-Jun	Day 0	Thursday	Fly from JFK to St Petersburg, Russia via Milan, Italy (8:30pm)
29-Jun	Day 1	Friday	Arrive to St. Petersburg, stay at friend's apartment in Novoe Devyatkinno
30-Jun	Day 2	Saturday	St Petersburg: cemetery Visits, City Center, watch World Cup RD16 game at Fan Zone
1-Jul	Day 3	Sunday	St Petersburg: movie in City Center, watch World Cup RD16 game at Fan Zone
2-Jul	Day 4	Monday	Half day in Pushkin, Tsarskoe Selo with Amber Room, watch World Cup RD16 games
3-Jul	Day 5	Tuesday	St Petersburg: City Center, watch World Cup RD16 game at Krestovskij Stadium (Zenit Arena)
4-Jul	Day 6	Wednesday	Day trip to Velikij Novgorod
5-Jul	Day 7	Thursday	Morning - trip to Kronshtadt; rest of the day - St Petersburg museums and unusual sites
6-Jul	Day 8	Friday	St Petersburg: City Center, watch World Cup QF games, Neva River and Canals boat cruise at night, walk around city at night
7-Jul	Day 9	Saturday	St Petersburg: visit places of childhood, watch World Cup QF games
8-Jul	Day 10	Sunday	St Petersburg: Neva River and Canals day time boat trip, walk around City Center, Novaya Gollandiya, Vasil'evskij Ostrov
9-Jul	Day 11	Monday	St Petersburg: walk around City Center, Letnij Sad, St Isaak's Cathedral - go to top
10-Jul	Day 12	Tuesday	St Petersburg: City Center, World Cup SF at Krestovskij Stadium
11-Jul	Day 13	Wednesday	SAPSAN speed train St. Petersburg - Moscow, Moscow center, World Cup SF at Luzhniki Stadium
12-Jul	Day 14	Thursday	Day in Moscow
13-Jul	Day 15	Friday	Day trip to Vladimir, Bogolyubovo, Cerkov' Pokrova na Nerli
14-Jul	Day 16	Saturday	Sick day at the hotel, watch World Cup 3rd Place game
15-Jul	Day 17	Sunday	Moscow: Izmailovo, Moscow City, World Cup FINAL at Luzhniki Stadium
16-Jul	Day 18	Monday	Train Moscow - St. Petersburg and last Supper with friends
17-Jul	Day 19	Tuesday	Fly back to JFK via Paris, France with long layover (8 hrs in Paris)

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 0	28-Jun	Thursday	JFK to St Petersburg, Russia flight via Milan, Italy (8:30pm-5:10pm)
Day 1	29-Jun	Friday	Arrive to St Petersburg - stay at friend's apartment in Novoe Devyatkinno
Day 2	30-Jun	Saturday	St Petersburg and World Cup RD16 matches - Cemetery visits - receive World Cup FAN ID and print World Cup tickets - walk to City Center from Petrovskij Stadium (on Petrogradskya Storona) - eat "Pishki" at historical pishechnaya on Bol'shaya Konyushennaya Street - watch World Cup RD16 match: France - Argentina on Konyushennaya Fan Zone - walk along Rubinstein Street

			- watch World Cup RD16 match: Uruguay - Portugal at Podstrelenaya Gusinya restaurant/pub
Day 3	1-Jul	Sunday	St Petersburg and World Cup RD16 matches
			- watch movie "The Tag" at Hudozhestvennij Cinema on Nevskij Prospekt
			- lunch at "Brynza" (Cheburechnaya) on Karavannaya St
			- watch World Cup RD16 match: Russia - Spain on Konyushennaya Fan Zone
			- Mozaichnij Dvorik (Mosaic Courtyard)
			- watch World Cup RD16 match: Croatia-Denmark at "Beer House" restaurant/pub (Chaikovskaya St)
Day 4	2-Jul	Monday	Half Day in Pushkin and World Cup RD16 matches
			- train to Pushkin (Carskoe Selo)
			- Catherine's palace and Amber Room
			- train back to St Petersburg
			- watch World Cup RD16 match: Brazil - Mexico at "Drunk and Happy" restaurant/pub
			- watch World Cup RD16 match: Belgium - Japan at home
Day 5	3-Jul	Tuesday	St Petersburg and World Cup RD16 matches
			- Cruiser Aurora
			- Peter and Paul's Fortress
			- Mosque
			- eat blini at Teremok
			- Marsovo Pole (Mars Field)
			- Nevskij Prospekt and Dom Knigi (Zinger House)
			- World Cup RD16 match: Sweden-Switzerland at Krestovskij Stadium (Zenit Arena)
			- watch World Cup RD16 match: England - Colombia at home
Day 6	4-Jul	Wednesday	Day trip to Velikij Novgorod
			- train to Velikij Novgorod
			- Novgorod State Museum Complex
			- Dinner: eat bear pelmeni (dumplings), bear cutlet, and bear sausages at Dom Berga (Berg's House)
			- train back to St Petersburg
Day 7	5-Jul	Thursday	Morning - trip to Kronshtadt, rest of the day - St Petersburg
			- trip to Kronshtadt by car
			- return to St Petersburg by noon
			- visit Grant Maket Rossiya museum - 2nd largest miniature museum in the world
			- lunch at "Burger and Crab" on Rubinstein Street (eat Kamchatskij Crab legs and burgers)
			- visit "Faberge Museum"
			- go to Petrogradskaya Storona (Petrogradskij District)
			- Nelson's Courtyard
			- bar Kamchatka (Viktor Tsoj)
			- go to Chernaya Rechka (location of Pushkin's Duel with D'Anthes)
Day 8	6-Jul	Friday	St Petersburg and World Cup QFs
			- walk around St Petersburg: Troickij Sobor, Nikol'skij Sobor, Mariinskij Theater, Nevskij Prospekt, Bridges and Canals
			- watch World Cup QF match: France - Uruguay at Mannekin Pis bar

			- watch World Cup QF match: Belgium - Brazil at "Pivorama" restaurant on Sadovaya St
			- walk along Fontanka River drinking wine with friends (outside drinking is "frowned" upon)
			- Night Neva-River and Canals boat cruise with Drawbridges
			- walk around city Center during White Night (Winter Palace, Alexandrian Column, Admiralty, Isaak's Cathedral, Bronze Horseman, City Center ...)
Day 9	7-Jul	Saturday	St Petersburg and World Cup QFs
			- visit childhood district (neighborhood, school, apartment buildings, kindergarten, Polyustrovskij Park...)
			- watch World Cup QF match: England - Sweden at a "Schwaben Keller" bar on Shosse Revolyucii
			- walk to City Center (Gostinij Dvor) passing by Nienschans Fortress, Smolnij Cathedral, Anichkov Bridge...)
			- watch World Cup QF match: Croatia - Russia at Metropole Restaurant
Day 10	8-Jul	Sunday	St Petersburg
			- "Jetazhi" - loft project - rooftop
			- Daytime rivers and canals boat tour
			- snack at "Shaverma"
			- Novaya Gollandija
			- walk around Vasil'evskij Ostrov
			- evening walk from City Center to Finland's Train Station
Day 11	9-Jul	Monday	St Petersburg
			- Letnij Sad (Summer Garden)
			- Lunch at "Jack & Chan" restaurant (Inzhenernaya Street)
			- Day time City walk (Streets and Monuments, Palace Square, Saint Isaac's Cathedral - go to top, Bronze Horseman...)
			- evening - Dinner at friend's apartment on Starij Nevskij
Day 12	10-Jul	Tuesday	St Petersburg and World Cup SF
			- City Center
			- Kazan's Cathedral
			- visit Church of the Savior on Blood
			- souvenir shopping (Matreshka and other)
			- dinner at Evraziya (sushi)
			- Krestovskij Island
			- World Cup SF match: France - Belgium at Krestovskij Stadium (Zenit Arena)
Day 13	11-Jul	Wednesday	St Petersburg to Moscow, Moscow, World Cup SF
			- "SAPSAN" speed train from St Petersburg to Moscow
			- hotel check-in
			- Red Square, Nikol'skaya Street
			- lunch at "Trapist" Belgian restaurant
			- World Cup SF match: Croatia - England at Luzhniki Stadium
			- Red Square and Nikol'skaya Street at night (after the game)
Day 14	12-Jul	Thursday	Moscow
			- Arbat Street, Novij Arbat Street
			- FIFA Museum
			- Aleksandrovskij Sad, Red Square

			- Park Zaryad'e
			- walk along Moscow river
			- Sculptural composition: "Children-victims of Adult Vices"
			- Peter the Great statue
			- Gor'kj Park and Qatar Village
			- Cathedral of Christ the Savior
			- Patriarsky Prud
			- dinner at "Barashka"
			- Chistie Prudi
			- walk back to hotel near Taganskaya Metro station
Day 15	13-Jul	Sunday	Day trip to Vladimir
			- train to Vladimir
			- cab to Bogolyubovo (Svyato-Bogolyubskij Women Monastery)
			- walk to Church Pokrova (Intercession) na Nerli
			- cab back to Vladimir
			- walk around Vladimir (Golden Gates, Dormition Cathedral...)
			- train back to Moscow
Day 16	14-Jul	Saturday	Sick Day in the Hotel
			- watch World Cup 3rd Place match: Belgium - England in the room
Day 17	15-Jul	Sunday	Moscow and World Cup FINAL
			- Izmailovo
			- Moscow City
			- walk Tverskaya Street
			- lunch at "Trapist" Belgian restaurant
			- WORLD CUP FINAL MATCH: FRANCE - CROATIA at Luzhniki Stadium
			- Nikol'skaya Street and Red Square after the Final
Day 18	16-Jul	Monday	Moscow to St Petersburg
			- train back to St Petersburg
			- supper with friends
Day 19	17-Jul	Tuesday	St Petersburg to JFK via Paris, France
			- Pulkovo Airport (9:10am flight to Paris, France)
			- train from de Gaulle Airport to Paris Center
			- walk around Paris: Notre Dame, Pompidu Centre, Louvre, Tuileres Gardens, d'Orsay Museum, Place Vendome, Opera House
			- Place de la Concorde, Pont Alexandre III, Sienne River, Champs-Elysses, Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Les Invalides... Notre Dame
			- train back to airport
			- fly back to JFK