

# Karelia: between Lake Onega and the White Sea

Russian Karelia: a beautiful journey in the middle of the nature and the historical artifacts! Karelia extends from the White Sea coast to the Gulf of Finland. The largest lakes of Europe are situated in Karelia: Lake Ladoga and Lake Onega. The Karelian Isthmus is located between the Gulf of Finland and Lake Ladoga. The large territory of this historical region is divided today between Finland and Russia and the rich traditions of its native people, the Karelians, who inhabited these dense forests and frost plains long before the coming of the first Scandinavian colonists, exerts a huge influence on the Finnish and Russian cultures. Discover the beautiful nature of the great Russian North and explore the islands on Lake Onega and the White Sea traveling with Russian Tour! We offer a wide selection of package holidays to Karelia, Lake Onega and the islands of the White Sea including a full visit programme and the support of an English-speaking guide; for questions and bookings, please contact us



## Kizhi, the Pearl of Karelia

Island located on Lake Onega, Republic of Karelia (Medvezhegorsk District), Russia. It is characterized by a set of wooden churches, chapels and houses. It is one of the most famous tourist destinations in Russia and also an UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is

surrounded by 5,000 other islands, many of which are extremely small, some of only 2 meters square, others reaching 35 km square. Kizhi is an ancient settlement that includes more than 100 villages from the XVI century. The island was declared a World Heritage Site for its unique architectural complexes. The architectural gem of the island is the Church of the Transfiguration (1714) with its 22 domes and a Baroque iconostasis. The nearby Intercession Church with 9 domes was built in 1764, with a bell tower added in 1874. The most astonishing feature of these structures is the fact that they were built without nails or other metal reinforcements; all connections are made of wood.



### **Valaam, on Lake Onega**

Valaam is an island in the northern part of Lake Ladoga and is its largest island. On the island there is the town of Valaam, included in the town of Sortavala, and the Monastery of Valaam, a monument of Russian architecture. The island is a popular tourist destination. There are two inland lakes, with a deeply indented coastline; their total area is 100 hectares, with interconnected canals, and a vast network of drainage canals (XIX century).

### **Solovki, on the White Sea**

Since 1974 the islands have been a natural reserve. They are an archipelago on the White Sea, in the Northwestern Federal District of Russia. They are situated 160 km from the Arctic Circle, 250 km from the Finnish border, 700 km from St. Petersburg, and 1200 km from Moscow. In 1992 Solovki became an UNESCO World Heritage Site "as an



outstanding complex, representing an apogee of the Russian Orthodox monastic enterprise, and endurance in a hostile environment". The archipelago, which is the largest archipelago of the Sea White, consists of six main islands and more than a hundred small islands, islets and rocks.



## **7 days / 6 nights tour to Lake Onega and the White Sea islands: Kizhi – Valaam – Solovky**

### **St Petersburg – Petrozavodsk – Kizhi – Sortavala – Valaam – Kem – Medvezhyegorsk – Robocheostrovsk – Solovki – St Petersburg**

#### **DAY 1 Arrival in St Petersburg**

Arrival in St. Petersburg. Transfer to the train station. Departure on the fast train to Petrozavodsk. Meet with the guide on the train. Arrival in Petrozavodsk, transfer to a 4 star hotel, overnight stay in Petrozavodsk.

## DAY 2 Petrozavodsk sightseeing tour and boat trip to Khizi Island

Breakfast at the hotel. City tour in the capital of Karelia, Petrozavodsk, literally "Peter's Factory," founded by Peter the Great in 1703 for needs related to the building of St. Petersburg. Transfer to the port on Lake Onega. Travel to the island of Kizhi by hydrofoil (1 hour and 15 minutes). Visit the museum-reserve with the Church of Transfiguration and ethnographic exhibitions. In the evening return to Petrozavodsk. Dinner. Double room accommodation at a 4\* hotel.



## DAY 3 Sortavala and boat trip to Valaam

Early morning departure for the city of Sortavala (260 km). Breakfast during the journey. In Sortavala you visit the exhibition of a famous sculptor - Kronid Gogolev. Then departure to the island of Valaam by hydrofoil (50 min on Lake Ladoga). Excursion on the island will let you discover the Central Valaam Monastery and the Cathedral of the Transfiguration, with relics of the saint founders of the monastery - Sergius and Herman. Lunch at the monastery's refectory. Then again by hydrofoil you go to the part of the island called "New Jerusalem". Walking tour to visit the Resurrection and the Gethsemane Sketes and the Mount of Olives. Return to Sortavala. Transfer to Petrozavodsk. Dinner (not included in the cost of the trip).

#### **DAY 4 The Kivach Nature Reserve and Rabocheostrovsk**

After breakfast, check out from the hotel. Departure by bus to the city of Kem (440 km). Along the way visit to the "Kivach" Nature Reserve, where you will see the famous Karelian birch and one of the largest waterfalls in Europe. Lunch in the city of Medvezhyegorsk. Evening arrival in the town of Rabocheostrovsk. Accommodation in the hotel on the shore of the White Sea.

#### **DAY 5 Solovki Islands**

Breakfast. Departure to the port. 8:00 a.m. departure by boat to the Solovki Islands (2 hours on the White Sea). "History and Architecture of the Solovetsky Kremlin Tour," which includes the masterpieces of ancient architecture - the majestic Cathedral of the Transfiguration and the Church of the Assumption with a refectory and other rural monastic buildings. Lunch at a restaurant. Walk through the prehistoric Solovki mazes. Arrival in the village of Rabocheostrovsk at 8:00 p.m. Dinner (optional) and overnight stay in Solovki.

#### **DAY 6 Petrozavodsk**

Breakfast, free time in the morning. Return by boat to Rabocheostrovsk. Transfer to the train station of Kem and departure on board a night train to Saint Petersburg.

#### **DAY 7 Departure from St Petersburg**

Arrival at the train station in St. Petersburg. Transfer to the airport and departure.

## **Dates and Prices**

Package tour available on request; departures every day

Prices per person, including accommodation in a DBL/twin room

### **Included:**

- Train tickets (2nd class): fast train from St. Petersburg to Petrozavodsk, night train from Kem to St. Petersburg.
- Transfers as per itinerary.
- Lunches and dinners as per itinerary.
- Accommodation: 3 nights in a 4 star hotel in Petrozavodsk, breakfast included. 1 night in a 3 star hotel in Solovki, 1 night in a 3 star hotel in Rabocheostrovsk, breakfast included.

- Guided excursions in English: Petrozavodsk city tour (guide + private transport), visit to the island of Kizhi (guide + hydrofoil + entrance fees), visit to the Monastery of Valaam with lunch included, the Solovki Kremlin and city tour (guide and entrance included + private transport).

### Not included:

- Visa service and fees International
- Airfare
- Extras and on-request additional features

The order of the included excursions may change. Because of the unstable conditions of the EUR/RUB exchange rate, the price published on this website may be subject to changes.

## **2 days / 1 Night tour to Petrozavodsk and Kizhi Islands**

### **DAY 1 -**

Departure from St Petersburg to Petrozavodsk on a high speed train. Meet with the guide on the train. Arrival in Petrozavodsk, transfer to a 4 star hotel, overnight stay in Petrozavodsk.

### **DAY 2 -**

Breakfast at the hotel. City tour in the capital of Karelia, Petrozavodsk, literally "Peter's Factory," founded by Peter the Great in 1703 for needs related to the building of St. Petersburg. Transfer to the port on Lake Onega. Travel to the island of Kizhi by hydrofoil (1 hour and 15 minutes). Visit the museum-reserve with the Church of Transfiguration and ethnographic exhibitions. In the evening return to Petrozavodsk and departure to St Petersburg.

## **Dates and Prices**

Package tour available on request; departures every day.

Prices per person, including accommodation in a DBL/twin room.

**Included:**

- Train tickets (2nd class): St. Petersburg to Petrozavodsk round trip (fast train + night train)
- Transfers as per itinerary
- Accommodation: 1 night in a 4 star hotel in Petrozavodsk, breakfast included.
- Guided excursions in English: Petrozavodsk city tour (guide + private transport), visit to the island of Kizhi (guide + hydrofoil + entrance fees)

## **3 days / 2 Nights tour to Petrozavodsk, Kizhi, Valaam**

**DAY 1 -**

Departure from St Petersburg to Petrozavodsk on a high speed train. Meet with the guide on the train. Arrival in Petrozavodsk, transfer to a 4 star hotel, overnight stay in Petrozavodsk.

**DAY 2 -**

Breakfast at the hotel. City tour in the capital of Karelia, Petrozavodsk, literally "Peter's Factory," founded by Peter the Great in 1703 for needs related to the building of St. Petersburg. Transfer to the port on Lake Onega. Travel to the island of Kizhi by hydrofoil (1 hour and 15 minutes). Visit the museum-reserve with the Church of Transfiguration and ethnographic exhibitions. In the evening return to Petrozavodsk. Overnight stay in Petrozavodsk

**DAY 3 -**

Early morning departure for the city of Sortavala (260 km). Breakfast during the journey. Once arrived in Sortavala we will be transferred to the island of Valaam by hydrofoil (50 min on Lake Ladoga). Excursion on the island will let you discover the Central Valaam Monastery and the Cathedral of the Transfiguration, with relics of the saint founders of the monastery – Sergius and Herman. Lunch at the monastery's refectory. Then again by hydrofoil you go to the part of the island called "New Jerusalem". Walking tour to visit the Resurrection and the Gethsemane Sketes and the Mount of Olives. Return to Sortavala. Transfer to Petrozavodsk and departure to St Petersburg on the night train.

### **Dates and Prices 2016/2017 Season**

Package tour available on request; departures every day.

Prices per person, including accommodation in a DBL/twin room.



**Included:** Train tickets (2nd class): St. Petersburg to Petrozavodsk round trip (fast train + night train) Transfers as per itinerary Accommodation: 2 nights in a 4 star hotel in Petrozavodsk, breakfast included. Guided excursions in English: Petrozavodsk city tour (guide + private transport), visit to the island of Kizhi (guide + hydrofoil + entrance fees), visit to the Monastery of Valaam with lunch included.

## **4 days / 3 Nights tour to Kem and Solovky Islands**

**DAY 1:** Departure from St Petersburg to Kem on a night train, second class. Night on board.

**DAY 2:** Once arrived in Kem we will be transferred to the port, where we will enjoy some free time to have breakfast. Boat trip to Solovki Islands, arrival and transfer to the hotel. Once settled in, we will depart on the sightseeing tour "History and Architecture of the Solovki Kremlin" which includes the masterpieces of ancient architecture - the majestic Cathedral of the Transfiguration and the Church of the Assumption with a refectory and other rural monastic buildings. Lunch at a restaurant. Walk through the prehistoric Solovki mazes. Return to the hotel. Overnight stay in Solovky.

**DAY 3 :** Breakfast in the hotel. Excursion to Sekirnaya Mountain and visit to the Botanic Garden. Lunch in a local snack bar. Transfer to the port and return to Kem by ferry. Transfer to Kem railway station and departure to San Petersburg on a night train. Night on board.

**DAY 4:** Arrival in St Petersburg around midday.

### **Dates and Prices 2016/2017 Season**

Package tour available on request; departures every day.

Prices per person, including accommodation in a DBL/twin room.

#### **Included:**

- Train tickets (2nd class): St. Petersburg to Kem round trip (night train)
- Transfers as per itinerary
- Accommodation: 1 night in a 3-star hotel in Solovki
- 2 breakfast and 1 lunch



- Guided excursions in English: the Solovki Kremlin (guide and entrance included), the Mountain Sekirnaya and the Botanic Garden (guide + private transport).

## Fully customizable tours

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