



Murmansk region

**NEW**

# Arctic & Karelia Winter Explorer

## Tailor-made tour - 8 days/7 nights

Expand your horizons and travel by rail to Russia's Kola Peninsula, north of the Arctic Circle, and experience the magic of a true Russian winter. Highlights include an excursion by hovercraft over the frozen Lake Onega to tiny Kizhi Island and three nights of Aurora hunting in search of the enigmatic Northern Lights. We also offer similar itineraries to the region in small group tours and by Private Train.

### Inclusions

- 5 nights accommodation with breakfast in 3 & 4-star hotels
- Arrival/departure transfers by car with guide assistance where specified
- Overnight in 2-berth rail compartment St. Petersburg-Petrozavodsk
- Overnight in 2-berth rail compartment Petrozavodsk-Murmansk
- Sightseeing as specified conducted by local **English speaking** guides

- St. Petersburg - Catherine's Palace at Pushkin
- Petrozavodsk - City tour, excursion by hovercraft to Kizhi
- Murmansk - City tour with Lenin nuclear icebreaker, Aurora hunting, Saami village & husky farm
- Kirovsk - Snow Village & snowmobile safari

### Your hotels

- **St. Petersburg** - Petro Palace
- **Petrozavodsk** - Piter Inn
- **Murmansk** - Azimut

### Day 1 St. Petersburg

Arrive St. Petersburg. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight St. Petersburg.

### Day 2 St. Petersburg

This morning, you visit the town of Pushkin, also known as Tsars' Village. Visit Catherine's Palace, one of the finest examples of Russian Baroque architecture and home to the famous Amber Room. After a late checkout, you will be

transferred to the railway station, with guide assistance, to board your overnight train to Petrozavodsk (23:20). Overnight on board. **B**

### Day 3 Petrozavodsk & Kizhi

Arrive Petrozavodsk at 06:50. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. After breakfast, you travel with your guide, by hovercraft over the frozen Lake Onega to tiny Kizhi Island. During your walking tour of this World Heritage Site, you will see the Transfiguration Church, built in 1714 entirely of Aspen wood. After a light lunch (lunch box), return to Petrozavodsk. Overnight Petrozavodsk. **B**

### Day 4 Petrozavodsk to Murmansk

After breakfast, you have a city tour of Petrozavodsk, the capital of Karelia, founded by Peter the Great in 1703 as an iron foundry. Afternoon transfer with guide assistance to the station to board your train to Murmansk, departing at 17:14. Overnight on board. **B**

### Day 5 Murmansk

Arrive Murmansk at 11:45. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Murmansk is the Arctic's largest city, situated on the picturesque Kola Bay, 193 km north of the Arctic Circle. During your city tour, you will see many memorable sights, including a giant concrete statue of a soldier, known as 'Alyosha', erected to commemorate the Arctic fighters who perished in WWII. You

will also visit the *Lenin* - the world's first nuclear-powered icebreaker, which was launched at the height of the Cold War in 1957 (closed Mon & Tue). This evening, you set out by car to seek out the Northern Lights. Overnight Murmansk.

### Day 6 Murmansk

This morning, visit a Saami village to learn about their history and culture, then meet the dogs and deer at a husky farm. This evening, you continue your search for the Aurora Borealis. Overnight Murmansk. **B**

### Day 7 Murmansk & Kirovsk

Today, you travel to the nearby city of Kirovsk, where you will visit Russia's largest Snow Village - a vast underground labyrinth featuring illuminated wall carvings and ice sculptures by artists from all over the Arctic region. You will then

have a chance to test your driving skills on a snowmobile safari. This evening, you travel by car into the countryside for your last opportunity to catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights. Overnight Murmansk. **B**

### Day 8 Murmansk

After breakfast, tour services end with your transfer to the airport or railway station. **B**

### Tour prices & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.  
Daily departures Jan-Mar 2021.

Departures	TwN	Sgl
1 Jan-2 Feb	4614	POA
3 Feb-31 Mar	4789	POA

■ **Feb and Mar are the most suitable months for hovercraft travel over ice.**



kizhi