



Russian Country Guide

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Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian passport holders are required to obtain a visa before entering Russia. Russia practices a very strict entry regime and travellers are advised to strictly adhere to the entry requirements.

Those visiting and departing Russia on a cruise ship for less than 72 hours in St. Petersburg and Vladivostok, only going ashore as part of an organised group tour and staying on the ship overnight will usually not require a visa. Travellers in this category are encouraged to contact their cruise operator to confirm their requirements.

Tourists not staying in hotels may require a different visa type and need to register with the foreigners' registration office (UVIR) within 7 working days of their arrival in Russia. Traveller must keep their travel documents on them at all times while in Russia. All travellers must be able to show documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, as well as tickets/entry documents for their next destination.

Additional conditions may apply to minors. See the visa application instruction form for details on how to apply for a Russian visa. All travellers are also recommended to contact a Russian mission on the details below for further information on applying for a Russian visa relative to their specific circumstances.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Russia. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B and rabies (particularly if working with animals). Vaccination against typhoid should be considered particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. Japanese encephalitis is present in Russia and vaccination should be considered by travellers spending more than four weeks in rural areas of the transmission zones. Tick-borne encephalitis is present throughout Europe and Asia, predominately in forested areas during summer. Vaccination and tick avoidance measures should be considered if visiting endemic areas during summer.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations, including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Russia should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips.

Russian Representation in Australia

Embassy of Russia, Canberra

78 Canberra Avenue
GRIFFITH ACT 2603

Tel: (02) 6295 9474
Fax: (02) 6295 1001

Web: <http://australia.mid.ru/web/en>

Consulate General of Russia, Sydney

7-9 Fullerton Street
WOOLLAHRA NSW 2025

Tel: (02) 9326 1866
Fax: (02) 9327 5065

Web: www.sydney.mid.ru

Jurisdiction of missions:

Residents of the ACT and NT should apply for their visa from the Embassy in Canberra. Residents of all states should apply for their visa from the Russian Consulate General in Sydney.



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Time differences between Russia and Australia

Russia is divided into 11 time zones stretching from Kaliningrad in the west (neighboring Poland, GMT +2) to Anadyr in the east (near Japan, GMT +12). For the purposes of this guide Moscow Standard Time (MSK) will be used. MSK is widely used throughout Russian airports and train stations as the standard time. MSK is Greenwich Mean Time +3 hours, daylight saving is not observed.

Moscow, 12 noon, December = Perth 5pm, Darwin 6:30pm, Brisbane 7pm, Adelaide 7:30pm, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 8pm.
Moscow, 12 noon, June = Perth 5pm, Darwin, Adelaide 6:30pm, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 7pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Russia: +7

To Dial Australia Call:
8 (wait) 10 61 <City> <Number>

Australian Reverse Charges Direct:
810 800 110 1061

Travelex Card Services (MasterCard):
810 800 2500 2044

Visa Global Assist:
363 2400 (wait for second tone) 866 654 0164
Moscow/St Petersburg only. Outside these cities
call 8 10 800 110 1011 (wait) 866 654 0164

MasterCard:
Call the US on 8 (wait) 10 1 636 722 7111

Emergency Services:
All 112 (from most phones)
Ambulance 03 or 103
Fire 01 or 101
Police 02 or 102

The emergency services may not have English speaking staff. To avoid delay it may be best to seek the assistance of a Russian speaker to call the emergency services on your behalf.

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Name: _____ Passport #: _____

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _____

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian representatives in Russia

Embassy of Australia, Moscow

10A/2 Podkolokolny Pereulok
MOSCOW 109028

Tel: (+7 495) 956 6070
Fax: (+7 495) 956 6170

Web: www.russia.embassy.gov.au

Honorary Consulate of Australia,
St Petersburg

Office 22-N
14 Petrovsky Prospekt
ST PETERSBURG 197110

Tel: (+7 812) 325 7334

Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305. Australia also maintains an honorary consulate in Vladivostok which is contactable on (+7 423) 244 6782.

Australians in Russia are encouraged to register their presence and contact details with the Australian Embassy in Moscow, or online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances for Russia and Australia

Allowances when entering Russia:

Alcohol: Up to 3 L in total.
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco.
 Total Goods: Up to €1,500 (for personal use only).

Allowances when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Russia and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on Russian customs please visit <http://eng.customs.ru>, or for information on Australian customs please visit www.homeaffairs.gov.au.

Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical Socket type: European (type C). The similar Schuko (type F) socket may also be found in some areas.

Supply: 220-240 V, 50 Hz (same as Australia).

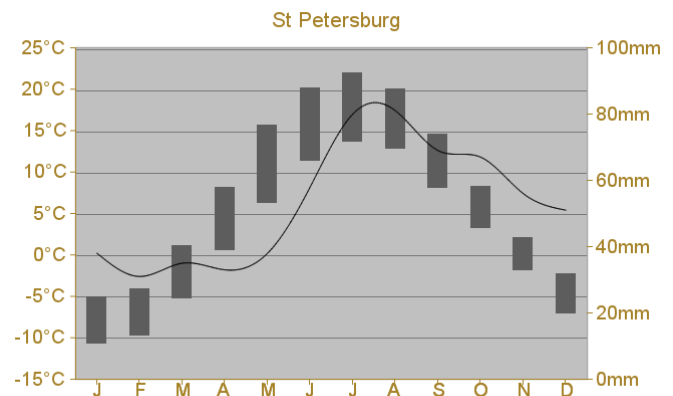
A voltage converter will generally not be required to use appliances designed for Australian use. A socket converter is usually all that will be required for these appliances.



Russian Holidays and Festivals 2018

- 01 - 08 Jan: New Year's Holidays
- 07 Jan: Orthodox Christmas Day
- 23 Feb: Defender of the Fatherland Day
- 08/09 Mar: International Women's Day
- 30 Apr: Holiday
- 01 - 02 May: Spring and Labour Day
- 09 May: Victory Day
- 11 - 12 Jun: Russia Day
- 04/05 Nov: Unity Day

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Russia



Source: Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology Monitoring. For local forecasts please go to www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

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Russian Country Guide

Exchange Rate

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 48 Russian Rubles
 10 Russian Rubles (RUB) = 0.21 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 46 Russian Rubles
 10 Russian Rubles (RUB) will cost 0.22 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging these currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Purchasing Power Parity

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Russian Ruble and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of each currency.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 283 Russian Rubles
 Big Mac Russia: 130 (RUB) = \$2.73 Australian Dollars

A Big Mac in Russia is therefore 54% less expensive than in Australia.

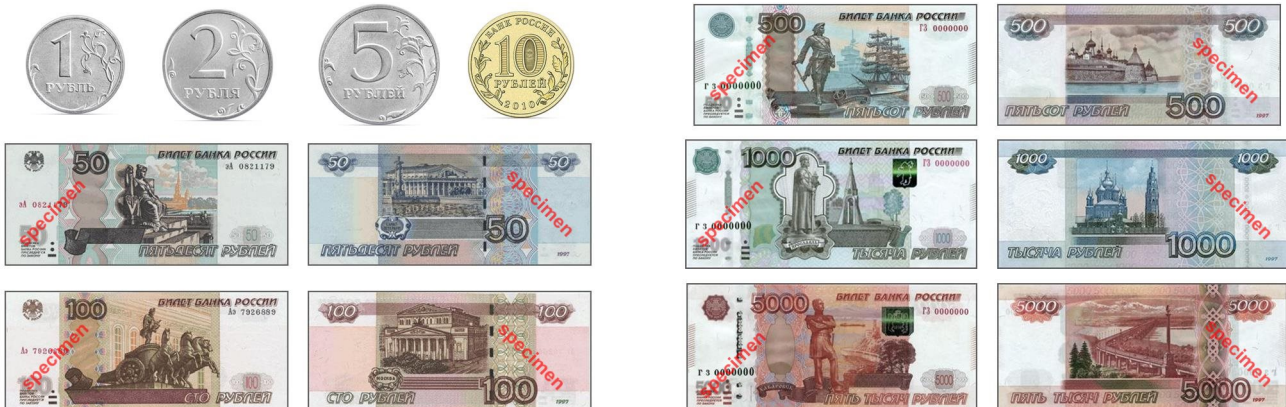
This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

Currency Cheat Sheet

50 RUB = \$1.09 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		10,000 RUB = \$218.54 AUD	
100 RUB = \$2.19 AUD	1,000 RUB = \$21.85 AUD	20,000 RUB = \$437.07 AUD	200 RUB = \$4.37 AUD	2,000 RUB = \$43.71 AUD	30,000 RUB = \$655.61 AUD
300 RUB = \$6.56 AUD	3,000 RUB = \$65.56 AUD	40,000 RUB = \$874.14 AUD	400 RUB = \$8.74 AUD	4,000 RUB = \$87.41 AUD	50,000 RUB = \$1,092.68 AUD
500 RUB = \$10.93 AUD	5,000 RUB = \$109.27 AUD	60,000 RUB = \$1,311.22 AUD	500 RUB = \$10.93 AUD	5,000 RUB = \$109.27 AUD	70,000 RUB = \$1,529.75 AUD
600 RUB = \$13.11 AUD	6,000 RUB = \$131.12 AUD	80,000 RUB = \$1,748.29 AUD	600 RUB = \$13.11 AUD	6,000 RUB = \$131.12 AUD	90,000 RUB = \$1,966.83 AUD
700 RUB = \$15.30 AUD	7,000 RUB = \$152.98 AUD	100,000 RUB = \$2,185.36 AUD	700 RUB = \$15.30 AUD	7,000 RUB = \$152.98 AUD	
800 RUB = \$17.48 AUD	8,000 RUB = \$174.83 AUD		800 RUB = \$17.48 AUD	8,000 RUB = \$174.83 AUD	
900 RUB = \$19.67 AUD	9,000 RUB = \$196.68 AUD		900 RUB = \$19.67 AUD	9,000 RUB = \$196.68 AUD	

Notes and Coins

The currency of Russia is the Russian Ruble (sometimes spelt Rouble), which is abbreviated using the symbols Р or руб and is subdivided into 100 kopecks. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.





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About Russia

Full Name: Rossiyskaya Federatsiya (Russian Federation).
 Size: 17 million sq km (largest in the world).
 Population: 142 million.
 Moscow 12 mil.; St Petersburg 5 mil.;
 Novosibirsk 1.5 mil.; Yekaterinburg 1.4 mil.
 Ethnicity: Russian 78%, Tatar 7%.
 Language: Russian.
 Religion: Russian Orthodox 41%, unaligned 25%, atheist 13%, Islam 4.7%.
 GDP PC: US\$24,800 (Australia US\$46,600).

Significant Dates:
 - 800's AD. A tribe of Vikings called the Rus begin to dominate the local Slavic peoples.
 - 882-1240. The state of Kievan Rus rules the area from Kiev to Veliky Novgorod.
 - 988. Kievan Rus converts to Christianity.
 - 1147. Moscow is founded.
 - 1237-1480. The Mongol Tatars invade, destroying most major cities. The area becomes part of the Golden Horde khanate.
 - 1462-1505. Ivan III the Great consolidates the power of Moscow over other Russian principalities, names himself Tsar (Caesar).
 - 1533-84. Reign of Ivan IV the Terrible. The conquest of Siberia by Cossacks begins.
 - 1613. Start of the Romanov dynasty.
 - 1682-1725. Reign of Peter I the Great.
 - 1762-96. Reign of Catherine II the Great.
 - 1812. Moscow briefly falls to Napoleon.
 - 1861. Serfdom is abolished.
 - 1863-69. Tolstoy writes War and Peace.
 - 1917. Revolution ends the Romanov dynasty. The Bolsheviks rule, led by Lenin.
 - 1922-91. Russia leads the Soviet Union.
 - 1924-53. Rule of Joseph Stalin.
 - 1941-45. Millions die in Great Patriotic War (WW2) with former ally Nazi Germany. Battle of Stalingrad, Siege of Leningrad.
 - 1947-91. Cold War with the West.
 - 1957. Sputnik (first satellite) is launched.
 - 1961. Yuri Gagarin orbits the earth, becomes the first human in outer space.
 - 1991. USSR dissolves, Cold War ends.
 - 1999. Vladimir Putin becomes President.



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