

Held every two years, the Moscow Air Show (MAKS) is a very popular event for both Russians and aviation enthusiasts everywhere, not least because the organisers usually produce at least one surprise: for example, the first public showing of a new aircraft, or unique flying combinations in the air display.

We visit all the main aircraft collections and museums in the Moscow area: the incredible Russian Air Force Museum in Monino, the old Yakovlev Design Bureau, the Great Patriotic War Museum in Victory Park, the Museum of the Central Armed Forces, and if it's still open, the remaining aircraft in the collection at Khyodinka.



We also go see the Hawker Hurricane IIB recently restored by Patrioticheskoe Vysota in St Petersburg, and now on display in the Krasnogorsky Museum of Techniques in Moscow.

Several hundred miles to the east of Moscow, on the banks of the mighty River Volga, lies the city of Ulyanovsk (previously named Simbersk, it is the birthplace of a certain Mr Lenin!). Here we visit the large collection of aircraft in the excellent Civil Aviation Museum, very nearly all of which are classic types from the Soviet era. We await confirmation of our visit to the Aviastar Aircraft Company which produced – and hopes to produce again – the giant Antonov An-124 and the Russian ‘Boeing 757 lookalike’, the Tupolev Tu-204.

No visit to Moscow is complete without going to see some of the famous and historic sites, and so we have a coach and walking tour, including the grounds inside the Kremlin, and the Armoury, plus Red Square, St Basils, and the famous GUM department store - not one of those infamous dreary, concrete edifices built during the Soviet era, but a stunningly beautiful and historic Victorian shopping arcade. Or you can spend a day away from the group and enjoy as you wish.

We fly on the scheduled services of British Midland Airways from London's Heathrow Airport and with Polet Airlines from Moscow to Ulyanovsk. Our return to Moscow is on the overnight sleeper train. Transfers and transportation is by deluxe, air-conditioned coach. In Ulyanovsk we stay overnight at the hotel located at Russia's national aviation institute; and in Moscow, 5-nights at the Aerostar Hotel; only recently opened it is located in Khodynka and only 3kms from Red Square – a 15-minutes walk or a very short taxi ride.

Please note that ALL meals are included in the tour price.

In addition to an Ian Allan tour manager, we are accompanied at all times by a local English-speaking guide.

We recommend Bob Ogden's excellent reference book “Aviation Museums and Collections of Mainland Europe” for details of all the museums on this itinerary. Published by Air Britain it is also available from Ian Allan Bookshops and Midland Counties Books.

If your interest is Russian aviation; aircraft museums and collections; airshows - this is the tour for you!

PROVISIONAL ITINERARY (all times local)

DAY 1: Sunday, 16th August

Between 06:30 and 07:30 hrs. please check-in with British Midland Airways on the “Departures” level (first floor) of Terminal 1 at London’s Heathrow Airport. Then meet Andy Geary-Stevens your Ian Allan Tour Manager who will be stood by the entrance through to “International Departures”. This is the busiest time of the day in Terminal 1 so please allow plenty of time to check-in.

→ Heathrow Airport, T1 Flight: BD 891 Departs: 09:30
→ Moscow Domodedovo Airport Arrives: 16:30

After Immigration, Baggage Reclaim and Customs we enter the Arrivals Hall and meet our local English-speaking Russian guide; we then check-in for our Polet Airlines flight to Ulyanovsk.

→ Moscow Domodedovo Airport Flight: YQ 735 (Saab 2000) Departs: 18:45
→ Ulyanovsk Airport Arrives: 20:15

On arrival we transfer by private coach to a local restaurant for our evening meal. We then go to the Hotel Aviatsionnava which is located in the grounds of the Aviation Institute. We stay tonight on a bed and breakfast basis. Website: <http://www.uvauga.ru/Departments/Hotel.htm>

DAY 2: Monday, 17th August

At 09:00 we depart the hotel to visit the excellent Civil Aviation Museum which now has 38 classic Russian (Soviet) aircraft on display, including one of the 5 Tupolev ‘Bear’ bombers that were converted into passenger airliners, and a Tu-144. We hope to arrange access to the latter and other types.

Website: <http://rides.webshots.com/album/558819989FWUlrU?start=0>

Lunch will be taken at the Aviation Institute, after which we plan to visit the factory of the Aviastar Aircraft Company (An-124 and Tu-204) and their airfield.

At 18:50 we depart Ulyanovsk on the overnight sleeper train to Moscow. Our evening meal, and breakfast the next morning, will be taken on the train.



DAY 3: Tuesday, 18th August

Arriving at Moscow’s “Kazansky Vokzal” railway station at 09:30, our waiting coach takes us directly to one of the finest aviation collections in the world: the mind-boggling Russian Air Force Museum at Monino! Website: www.moninoaviation.com

Late afternoon we see any remaining aircraft in the now defunct National Air and Space Museum at Khodynka airfield, Moscow’s original airport. It was here in 1910 that the first powered flight took place in Russia. In May 1896, prior to becoming an airfield, Khodynka Field was the site of the ill-fated coronation of Tsar Nicholas II. A stampede, caused by a rumoured shortage in souvenir mugs, resulted in up to 1,500 people being trampled to death!

We stay in Khyodinka, at the Aerostar Hotel which opened in 2007; it is only 3kms from Red Square. We stay 5-nights on a Full Board basis (breakfast, packed lunches and evening meal). Website: www.aerostar.ru

DAY 4: Wednesday, 19th August

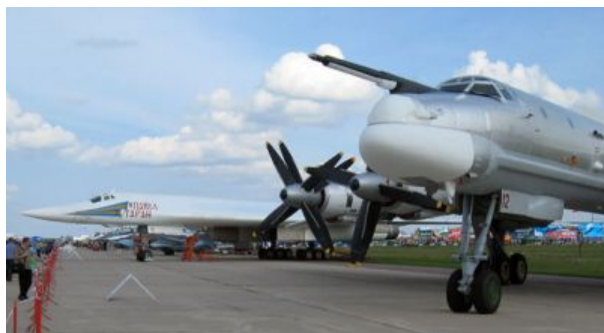
At 09:00 we set out by coach for a coach and walking sightseeing tour of Moscow, which will include Red Square, St Basils Cathedral, the Kremlin, its grounds and Armoury; we finish with free time to look around the incredible, and famous, GUM shopping arcade. Lunch will be at a restaurant near to the Kremlin.

DAY 5: Thursday, 20th August

Leaving the hotel at 09:00 we visit The Museum of the Great Patriotic War, which has over 25 aircraft on display. Website: www.russianmuseums.info/M421 The Museum is located within the huge expanse of Victory Park. Website: <http://www.moscow.info/parks/victory-park.aspx>

We then go to the top of nearby Sparrow (formerly Lenin) Hill from where there are panoramic views over Moscow.

In the afternoon we visit the Central Armed Forces Museum, which includes the shot-down American U-2 spy-plane of Gary Powers. Website: http://www.cmaf.ru/eng/index_eng.htm



DAYS 6 & 7: Friday, 21st and Saturday, 22nd August

Departing each morning at 07:00 we spend 2-full days at MAKS, on Friday's Trade Day and Saturday's Public Day. We have VIP tickets for both days so that our coach can park on Zhukovsky airfield itself, and we don't have to use the public 'park and ride scheme' from Bykovo Airport, several kilometres away.

DAY 8: Sunday, 23rd August

Mid-morning we leave to visit the Zadorozhny Museum (formerly the Yakovlev Design Bureau Museum).

We also see the superb Hawker Hurricane IIB whose restoration was recently completed by Patrioticheskoe Vysota in St Petersburg and is now on display at the Krasnogorsky Museum of Techniques in Moscow.

At 16:00 we arrive at Domodedovo Airport and check-in with British Midland for our flight back to London.

→ Domodedovo Airport

Flight: BD 894

Departs: 18:25

→ Heathrow Airport, Terminal 1

Arrives: 19:40

After UK Immigration Control we await our luggage in Baggage Reclaim and take the opportunity to bid each other farewell – until the next time: “Paka! Dosva Danya”!

PRICE PER PERSON	TOUR: 227918
£ 1,995.00	Package price based on sharing a twin bedded room on a full board basis
£ 335.00	Single room supplement, but twin-sharing on the train
£ 575.00	Single room supplement throughout (including the train)
£ 1,665.00	Land-only (NO flights) <i>PLEASE SPEAK WITH ONE OF OUR CONSULTANTS BEFORE BOOKING</i>

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Economy class tickets on the scheduled services of British Midland from London's Heathrow Airport
- Economy class ticket on the scheduled service of Polet Airlines from Moscow's Domodedovo Airport
- UK Passenger Service Charge & UK & Russian airport taxes (subject to change)
- Coach transfers and transportation as stated
- Overnight sleeper train Ulyanovsk-Moscow, based on 2 persons in 4-berth cabins
- 6-nights hotel accommodation in rooms with private facilities
- All meals (most lunches will be of packed variety)
- Admission charges to all aviation collections and museums as stated
- Two days admission to the Moscow Air Show, with on-airfield parking
- Full-day coach and walking sightseeing tour of Moscow, including admission charges
- Services of a local English-speaking guide
- Services of an Ian Allan Tour Manager

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel insurance – see General Information
- Tourist visa: required by all visitors – see General Information
- Personal expenditure, e.g. telephone calls, laundry, drinks, etc.
- Tips and gratuities

Payment for Ian Allan Aviation Tours

A deposit of £250.00 per person per tour should accompany your Booking Form, with the balance due 10 weeks prior to the tour's departure. Please see your Booking Confirmation/Invoice for the exact date. Please note that a reminder of the payment date will not be sent.

Passports and Visas

Citizens of the UK are required to be in possession of a Full UK Passport, which must be valid for at least 6 months from the expiry date of your Russian tourist visa. You may also refer to the World Travel Guide website: www.wtgonline.com for general information on passports, visas and health requirements.

Everyone requires a visa to enter Russia and the price varies according to how quickly you want your application processed. For UK Passport holders/residents, the cheapest rate for a single-entry tourist visa is currently £50.00 based on a processing time of 5 working days; however, during the summer months it can take up to 21 days to process such applications! The above information is current but is subject to change without notice.

All visa applications have been outsourced by the Russian Consular (Visa) Section to a private company, and there is now an additional "Consular Admin Fee" of £22.00, taking the current price of a Tourist Visa to £72.00.

For UK Passport holders/residents we strongly recommend you use "ASLA Select" to get your visa, as they will ensure that all the necessary supporting documentation is in order and included with your application; and they usually can get visas more quickly than the advertised time. In addition to the cost of the visa and the Consular Fee, ASLA charge a fee of £35.00 for what is a very reliable service (therefore total = £107.00).

You will also need to include with your application proof of travel insurance.

Full details, including a visa application form, a "Letter of Invitation" from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a tourist voucher, will be sent to you nearer the date of travel.

Please note that you cannot apply for a tourist visa more than 3 months in advance of your date of travel.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) Consular Advice

The FCO's consular service is a major operation. Every hour of every day consular staff around the world are advising and helping British nationals. For up-to-date passport, visa and security information on the destination you intend visiting, we suggest you visit www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo

In addition, the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) provide an Information Line, telephone: 0901 201 505 (calls currently charged at 50p per minute).

Baggage Regulations – British Midland Airways (BMI) – London Heathrow Departures only

BMI's baggage rules, for Economy Class allow an unlimited number of pieces in the aircraft's hold, up to a maximum weight (when totalled) of 20kgs per person.

Hand, or cabin, baggage is limited to one item no bigger than 25cm (9.85 inches) deep x 56cm (22 inches) long x 45cm (17½ inches) high, which you must be able to lift unaided into the overhead locker onboard the aircraft, plus one 'personal item', i.e. laptop, briefcase, etc..

Limited quantities of liquids (individual containers must not exceed 100ml or 3.5 fl oz), are now allowed as hand baggage but must be carried separately through security in a clear plastic, zip-top or re-sealable bag that does not exceed 20cm x 20cm (8 inches x 8 inches), or quart size. Items must fit in the bag comfortably and the bag must be completely closed.

The bag can only contain liquids such as shampoo, suntan lotions, creams, toothpaste, hair gel and hair spray, perfumes, cosmetics such as mascara and lip gloss, water and other drinks, soups and syrups and other items of a similar consistency.

Cigarette lighters are NOT permitted in hold baggage or through the security search. These may be purchased airside.

Hand baggage can also include electronic equipment such as mobile phones, digital cameras and MP3 players (such as i-Pods). Laptops must be removed from the bag for x-ray.

Prescription medicines in liquid form, e.g. diabetic kit can also be included.

At security all remaining items should be placed in the tray provided for screening, e.g. car keys and fobs, cash, solid food, books, newspapers, cigarettes and tobacco, belts and shoes. Pushchairs and walking aids are permitted but must be x-ray screened. All wheelchairs will be subject to search. Please note: you may be subject to a hand search by the security team and required to remove footwear to be x-ray screened.

If flying from any other airport on BMI, i.e. on connecting services to/from Heathrow, the allowance differs depending on the airport – please ask for details at time of booking or contact your local BMI office or airport for details.

Meals

This tour is on a Full Board basis; breakfast, lunch and dinner each day (most lunches will be of the packed variety). One evening meal and one breakfast will be taken on the train from Ulyanovsk.

Health Requirements

There are no known mandatory or recommended precautions for visiting Russia; however, we strongly recommend you consult your local doctor or health centre for the latest information.

Climate and Dress

Western Russia in August should be hot and sunny (low - mid 80s°F), so we recommend casual, but smart, summer attire.

Travel Insurance

For citizens of the United Kingdom, Ian Allan Travel Ltd can provide competitive and comprehensive insurance cover for the duration of your tour. However, if you do not wish to take out our insurance, you must ensure that comparable or greater cover is taken. The number of your Insurance Policy should be written, if known, on your Booking Form at the time of making the reservation, but no later than the date when final payment is due. A copy of the policy must be forwarded to Ian Allan Travel Ltd.

Individual insurance policies are arranged through CoverMore Insurance Services Limited; the premiums for which will vary according to your circumstances. Full details are available on request.

Wheelchair Assistance at Airports.

Anyone requiring wheelchair assistance at airports must have this service requested and confirmed in advance. Airlines and/or airports can no longer provide this service without prior confirmation, therefore, please annotate your booking form accordingly.

Flexible Itinerary

We are very happy for enthusiasts to take time away from the printed itinerary to pursue their own interests during multi-day stays in the same place, so long as they inform the Tour Manager. It will be the individual's responsibility to ensure that they re-join the group in the hotel at the stated time on the day of departure.

Land Only Price

For enthusiasts who would prefer to join the tour in Moscow (instead of flying from the UK with the main group), we are very pleased to provide a 'Land Only' price.

This price *does not* include international flights to/from Moscow at the start and end of the tour, but it **DOES** include the flight on Polet Airlines from Moscow Domodedovo Airport to Ulyanovsk.

You are strongly advised to contact us before making your own flight arrangements to/from Moscow in the event that there has been a change to the published itinerary.

Please note that the 'Land only' price is based on you meeting the tour on Day 1 at Moscow's Domodedovo Airport.

Pre-departure

For connecting flights from UK regional airports - please call Ian Allan Aviation Tours on 01932 255627 for the latest special offers available.

Airport Hotel and/or Car Parking - we can offer special rates for the above at most UK airports, please ask for details.

Flight Timings & Connecting Travel Arrangements to Departure Airport

All flight departure and arrival times are correct at the time of preparing each itinerary; however, airlines may change these times with little or no prior warning. In practice such changes are only a few minutes either way and the final itinerary will show the actual times. Clients making their own arrangements to get to the departure airport by air, rail, coach etc., should bare the above in mind if purchasing non-refundable or non-changeable tickets. Ian Allan Aviation Tours cannot be held responsible for any changes to flight times and any privately arranged travel tickets to the airport becoming invalid.

Pleasure Flights – Disclaimer

Should you decide to undertake any pleasure/sightseeing flights which have not been offered or sanctioned by us, Ian Allan Travel Ltd will not be held liable for any injuries or death resulting thereon.

Tours Affected by World Events or Unforeseen/Unplanned Circumstances

In an ever-changing world, events may occur immediately before or during a tour that result in cancellations or changes to the tour itinerary. For example, an increase in security may result in an approved visit being cancelled by the host, etc.. Ian Allan Travel Ltd cannot be held responsible for any tour being cancelled, or itineraries affected, due to world events or circumstances beyond our control.

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