

Internet Resources for RUSSIA

General Information

Travel Information: www.russia.com

Russian Travel Bureau: www.russia-travel.com

Various Facts about Russia www.russiaprofile.org

"ITAR-TASS" News Agency: www.itar-tass.com/eng

"RIA Novosti" News Agency: <http://en.rian.ru/>

Russian International Radio: <http://www.ruvr.ru/index.php?lng=eng>

Russia in Web Cameras: www.webcam.deili.info/en,1,3

Russian Translation Dictionary On-Line: www.rustran.com

Youth in Action Programme related links

EAC Executive Agency: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.php

SALTO Resource Centres Network: www.salto-youth.net

European Youth Portal: www.europa.eu/youth

Eurodesk: www.eurodesk.eu

EVS Volunteers Blogs: www.myevs.net

SALTO EECA Support Service (www.salto-eeca.eu)

- Contact List of Organizations,
- Forum (Partner Finding, Exchange of Experience, Reports and Photos from Events, Documents and Articles download and more),
- Blogs and Chat Room for EVS Volunteers.

...moreover

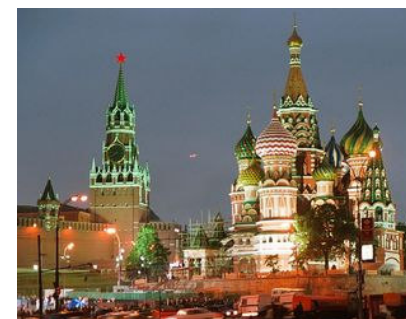
Regional Multipliers Network: www.salto-youth.net/eecamultipliers

Manual on EECA Countries: www.salto-youth.net/eecamanual



Russian Federation

Russia is a country that stretches over a vast expanse of Eurasia. With an area of 17,075,200 square kilometres, it is the largest country in the world by land mass, covering almost twice the territory of the next-largest country, Canada. It ranks as the world's eighth largest population.



Founded in the 12th century, the Principality of Muscovy, was able to emerge from over 200 years of Mongol domination (13th-15th centuries) and to gradually conquer and absorb surrounding principalities. In the early 17th century, a new Romanov Dynasty continued this policy of expansion across Siberia to the Pacific. Under Peter I (ruled 1682-1725), hegemony was extended to the Baltic Sea and the country was renamed the Russian Empire. During the 19th century, more territorial acquisitions were made in Europe and Asia. Repeated devastating defeats of the Russian army in World War I led to widespread rioting in the major cities of the Russian Empire and to the overthrow in 1917 of the imperial household. The Communists under Vladimir Lenin seized power soon after and formed the USSR. The brutal rule of Iosif

Stalin (1928-53) strengthened communist rule and Russian dominance of the Soviet Union at a cost of tens of millions of lives. The Soviet economy and society stagnated in the following decades until General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev (1985-91) introduced glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring) in an attempt to modernize Communism, but his initiatives inadvertently released forces that by December 1991 splintered the USSR into Russia and 14 other independent republics. Since then, Russia has struggled in its efforts to build a democratic political system and market economy to replace the strict social, political, and economic controls of the Communist period.



Flag

Coat of Arms

The 1990s were plagued by armed ethnic conflicts in the North Caucasus. Such conflicts took a form of separatist insurrections against federal power (most notably in Chechnya), or of ethnic/clan conflicts between local groups. Recently the situation is slowly stabilized.

The most widespread religion in Russia is Orthodox Christianity dominated by Russian Orthodox Church. A considerable portion of the population considers themselves atheists, since several generations lived through the time of suppression of religion in the Soviet Union. Still, a significant part of atheists associates themselves culturally with the Russian Orthodoxy.

(source: *Wikipedia*)



Visas and registration

Citizens of EECA countries (except Georgia) don't need visas. All EU citizens need to obtain visa to enter Russia. Cost of travel/visitor visa (up to 30 days) vary from 10 to 45 USD and depends on the nationality of the traveller. It can be issued only in Russian consulates worldwide. Additional photos and official invitation from Russian citizen or tourist voucher from hotel (allowed to host foreigners) or travel agency are necessary. Passport must be valid for at least 6 months.

Travellers receive a registration card at the border-crossing, it shall be presented again at the border while leaving the country. It is also a basis for registration. All money and valuable items (as laptops, photo cameras etc.) must be officially declared. If going through Belarus, Russian custom control is done at the Polish-Belarusian border.

Foreigners must register within a period of 3 working days with local passport and visa office (OWIR) or police station and have registration put in their passport. If staying in hotel, the registration should be organized automatically. Year-long visas require official invitation, which confirms institutional support and purpose of stay in Russia, it costs: 250 USD. HIV test required for persons staying over 90 days.

www.mid.ru, 2007

Basic information

Full country name:
Russian Federation

Government type:
Federation Republic

Capital: Moscow



Independence: 24 August 1991 (from Soviet Union)

National holiday: Russia Day, 12 June (1990)

Area: 17.07 million sq km

Administrative divisions: 49 oblasts (oblastey, singular - oblast), 21 republics (respublik, singular - respublika), 10 autonomous okrugs (avtonomnykh okrugov, singular - avtonomnyy okrug), 6 krays (krayev, singular - kray), 2 federal cities (singular - gorod), and 1 autonomous oblast (avtonomnaya oblast')

Population: 140,041,247 (July 2009 est.)

Ethnic groups: Russian 79.8%, Tatar 3.8%, Ukrainian 2%, Bashkir 1.2%, Chuvash 1.1%, other or unspecified 12.1% (2002 census)

Language: Russian - official, many minority languages

Religion: Russian Orthodox 15-20%, Muslim 10-15%, other Christian 2% (2006 est.) *note:* estimates are of practicing worshipers; Russia has large populations of non-practicing believers and non-believers, a legacy of over seven decades of Soviet rule

(source: *The World Factbook*)