

## GRAND KARELIA TOUR 6 days/5 nights



A comprehensive tour of Karelia, including the Solovetsky Islands  
Visit churches at Kizhi, Valaam and on the Solovetsky islands  
Take a walk in Ruskeala marble canyon and Kivach Reserve  
Learn about the White Sea - Baltic Canal  
Taste local food in the historical village of Kinerma

**Route: Petrozavodsk – Kizhi - Kinerma – Ruskeala – Sortavala - Valaam – Sortavala – Petrozavodsk - Kivach – Povenets – Kem - Solovetsky**

### Day 1. Petrozavodsk – Kizhi - Petrozavodsk

~07:00 (09:00) - Arrival in Petrozavodsk by train from St. Petersburg (Moscow).

Meeting at the train station, transfer to the hotel.

Breakfast at the hotel.

~11:15 - Departure by boat for Kizhi.

~12:45 – Arrival at Kizhi.

Walking tour of the Kizhi Museum with a local English-speaking guide.

~16:45 - Departure back for Petrozavodsk.

~18:15 - Return to Petrozavodsk.

Overnight in Petrozavodsk.



## **Day 2. Petrozavodsk – Kinerma – Ruskeala - Sortavala**

Breakfast.

~09:00 - Transfer to the traditional Karelian village of Kinerma.

~10:30 - Walking tour of the village, lunch with local meals.

~13:00 - Transfer to Ruskeala.

~16:30 - Tour to the marble quarries of Ruskeala which were the source of stone for St.Petersburg palaces.

~18:30 - Accommodation and overnight at the hotel in Sortavala.



## **Day 3. Sortavala – Valaam – Sortavala – Petrozavodsk**

Breakfast at the hotel.

~09:00 - In the morning take a boat for the tour of Valaam Island and Monastery.

~10:00 - Visit the central Transfiguration Cathedral, the Church of the Resurrection, observe fairy-tale Gethsemane Skete, and enjoy the beautiful forests and lake landscapes of the Island. In between of the tours the Monastery choir performs a short but impressive concert of the church songs. Lunch is served at the refectory and includes typical monastery meals such as vegetarian soup and fish.

~16:00 - Return to Sortavala and drive to Petrozavodsk.

~21:30 - Dinner and overnight at hotel in Petrozavodsk.

## **Day 4. Petrozavodsk – Kivach – Povenets - Kem**

Breakfast at the hotel.

~08:00 - Transfer to Kivach Nature Reserve.

~09:30 - Observe Kivach Waterfalls and take a walking tour along the ecological trail in the protected part of the Reserve

~14:00 - Visit the village of Povenets, observe the White Sea - Baltic Canal built in Stalin's time.

Transfer to Kem.

~19:00 - Accommodation at the hotel in Kem.

Overnight in Kem.



### **Day 5. Kem - Solovetsky**

Breakfast.

~08:00 - Departure by boat for Solovetsky Island.

~10:00 - Arrival at Solovetsky Island, transfer to the hotel.

~14:00 - Walking tour of Solovetsky Monastery.

Evening is free. Optional visits - Maritime Museum, Gulag Museum or the White Sea coast.

Overnight at Solovetsky.

### **Day 6. Solovetsky - Kem**

Breakfast at the hotel.

~10:00 - Tour to Zayatsky Island. It is a small tranquil island in about 45 minutes boat ride from the Monastery. The main places of interest of Zayatsky, covered with the tundra-type vegetation are its mysterious stone labyrinths dating back about 4000 years and a small wooden church of St. Andrew (1702).

Transfer to the pier.

~16:00 - Departure for Kem

~18:00 - Arrival in Kem.

Dinner.



Transfer to the train station.

~20:25 - Departure to St. Petersburg by train (arrival St. Petersburg next day at about 12:00 noon). Tickets are not included.

Train for Moscow leaves on the next day early in the morning, extra night in Kem is required.