

# Perm Culture Kit

## Online Version



# Russian Federation

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## Welcome to Perm!

Perm lies on the banks of the Kama River and at the foot of the Ural Mountains. It was founded in 1568 and grew rapidly after the installation of a copper-smelting plant in 1723. Soon afterward, in 1756, Perm became a center for Russian military manufacturing. Today, Perm has become the region's administrative, industrial, scientific, and cultural center. Its population is approximately 1 million.

## Facts about Perm:

- Almost 80% of the population is employed in some type of manufacturing
- Perm is responsible for about 3% of Russia's oil output
- Perm is home to several major universities, including the Perm State University, Perm Technical University, and the Medical Academy.

## Sister City Relationship:

Perm became a Sister City of Louisville in 1994 after the establishment of the relationship between Dr. Bruce Adams, Professor of History at University of Louisville and Dr. Victor Henner, Professor of Physics at the University of Perm. Louisville and Perm are both river cities, centers of culture, and both have large universities and a similar population. In 1994, Louisville and Perm took part in the Business Plan for Russia project and worked together in the areas of international marketing, worker training development, waste treatment, military conversion, and machine building. Perm and Louisville have also cooperated in education exchanges, with many Perm graduate students pursuing master's degrees at University of Louisville. These university partnerships have led to further participation in the Perm Committee in Louisville. Another strong point of Perm and Louisville's relationship includes the art and culture exchanges that have taken place between the cities, especially between the respective visual arts communities. Development and assistance programs have also played a part in the partnership. In 2002, the Perm Committee of Sister Cities Louisville donated beds to a children's shelter in Perm, and medical supplies are donated each year during the international medical conference. Over the years, Perm has become a base for introducing Louisville to Russian talent, culture, and business opportunities.

# Snapshots of Culture

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## **People and Places:**

Russia is the largest country in the world and nearly twice the size of the United States. It has four of the world's largest rivers and Lake Baikal, the deepest fresh water lake in the world. It spans two continents—Europe in the west and Asia in the east. Varied geographic features shelter vast natural resources. Northern Russia is covered by vast planes of permafrost, which is known as Siberia. Russia is the coldest country in the world with a mid-annual of 22 degrees. Russians represent 160 ethnic groups and indigenous peoples.

## **Life Experiences and Needs:**

As a result of past war casualties and rigorous conditions, women often worked hard in the household and at jobs traditionally assigned to men. Children were cared for by elders or nurseries at the farm or factory. Today unemployment is high, and women often work at home. Housing is limited; many Russians live in high-rise concrete apartments. Most Russian families are small; it is common to have only one child. Borscht, made of cabbage and beets, is a favorite soup for which Russians are well known.

## **Aesthetics and Language:**

Russians are famous for their poetry, short stories, novels, and plays. They also have world famous composers who wrote symphonies, ballets, operas, and other musical works. Ballet is a very important form of art in Russia, as are the famous Russian circuses. Russian is the official language and is written in the Cyrillic alphabet, which has 29 letters. Second languages are highly encouraged in schools; children may attend schools where they speak and learn in English starting in the second grade.

## **Past and Present Cultures:**

In the past, the Russia people have suffered from many invasions, wars, internal revolutions, and extreme climatic conditions. They are a strong people with great devotion for "Mother Russia." Life under czarist and Communist rule did not allow freedom, personal responsibility, or the desire to work independently. Today, Russians are challenged to rebuild an economy and social system, along with neighbors once part of the Soviet Union.

## **Rules, Leaders, and Institutions:**

Today Russia is governed by the President who is the Head of State and a Prime Minister as the Head of Government. Under Communist rule, 1917-1989, the country was led by powerful dictators and, prior to that, by Czars. Two of the best-known Czars were Peter and Catherine, both with titles of "The Great," who westernized the country. Today education is highly valued with academic, technical, and art schools as options through competitive exams.

## **Recreation and Celebration:**

The country's favorite sport is soccer. Russians also like winter sports such as ice-skating, hockey, and cross-country skiing. They love to go to theaters and movies. The New Year's celebration in Russia is similar to the traditional US Christmas. A robed and bearded figure called Grandfather Frost, quite like Santa Claus, leaves presents for children to find. The celebration occurs on January 7th according to the calendar used by the Russian Orthodox Church. Easter is celebrated with highly decorated eggs colored with wax and dyes called pysanki.

## **Values and Services:**

The Russian Orthodox Church is the dominant religion, although many lesser denominations do exist. The second most popular religion is Islam. During Communist rule, Russians leaders discouraged religious worship. Many of the churches were converted into museums. Youth grew up without religious instruction; instead, they earned the right to be Young Pioneers, an organization similar in some ways to Boy and Girl Scouts. Today people who have secretly worshipped for years are not restricted in their religious beliefs.

## **Producers, Consumers, and Transporters:**

Russia is the ninth largest economy in the world and the fifth largest in Europe. If its current growth continues, it is expected to become the sixth largest economy in the world and the second largest in Europe. Most people use public transportation—trolleys, trains, and buses—to travel to work, vacation sites, and school. Air travel is expensive for most people and railroads are very slow in such a large country.

# Snapshots of Culture cont.

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## Interdependence and Connections:

Prior to the breakup of the Soviet Union, the USSR (Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic) and US were archrivals vying for other world powers to line up in their camps. More cooperation is now possible. Tourism to Russia's magnificent museums, such as the Hermitage in St. Petersburg and Armory in Moscow, and vast landscapes and rivers is increasing. Russian citizens, whose right to travel was very limited during Soviet time, can now travel abroad more easily.



# When In Russia

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## Etiquette Do's and Do Not's in Russia:

- Russians tend not to smile in public. It's not necessarily unfriendliness, just a cultural difference. They tend to reserve smiles for friends.
- Raising your voice is not necessarily a sign of anger.
- It is considered rude to point in public.
- Always bring something such as a gift, dessert, or flowers when invited to a Russian's home.
- It is considered rude to stand with your hands in your pockets.
- Women should always cover their heads when entering any Russia Orthodox Churches.
- It is considered rude to shake hands with your gloves on.

## Common Phrases in Russian:

Da - yes

Net - no

Zdra voi tey - hello

Privet - hi

Da svi danya - goodbye

Paka - bye

Menya za vut... - my name is...

Ya iz anglii - I am from England

Skolka stoit? - How much is it?

Adin, dva, tri - 1, 2, 3

Vodka - Can you guess?

Piva - beer

Gdye...? - where...?

Babushka - old grannies (everywhere in Russia)

Davai - come on!

Kruta, klasna, zdorova - cool

Ya ly blue rocciyu - I love Russia (keep in with the locals)

Davai vipem - lets drink!

Za zdorove - cheers (essential!)



# Additional Information

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The following is an annotated list of links to webpages relating to the themes as outlined in the Sister Cities Culture Kit.

## People and Place

Wikipedia Encyclopedia - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia>

Encarta Encyclopedia - [http://encarta.msn.com/text\\_761569000\\_0/Russia.html](http://encarta.msn.com/text_761569000_0/Russia.html)

CIA World Factbook - <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/rs.html>

Contains the most up-to-date statistics on Russia compiled by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Russia Statistics - <http://www.nationmaster.com/country/rs>

History of the U.S.S.R. - [http://encarta.msn.com/text\\_761553017\\_0/Union\\_of\\_Soviet\\_Socialist\\_Republics.html](http://encarta.msn.com/text_761553017_0/Union_of_Soviet_Socialist_Republics.html)

## Life Experiences and Needs

Articles on Russian Cuisine - <http://www.russianfoods.com/cuisine/room/default.asp>

Also features a section with traditional Russian recipes and menus.

Russian Cuisine - <http://www.ruscuisine.com/>

Authentic Russian recipes and articles on Russian cuisine.

## Aesthetics and Languages

Online Russian Lessons - <http://masterrussian.com/>

Resources for all aspects of learning Russian.

About the Russian Alphabet - <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/russian.htm>

Information about the Cyrillic alphabet.

Russian/English Dictionary - <http://www.freedict.com/onldict/rus.html>

Provides translation to and from Russian.

## Past, Present, and Future Cultures

Russian Culture Internet Resource Page - <http://www.auburn.edu/~mitrege/russian-culture/internet-resources.html> - A page with very detailed links to all aspects of Russian culture.

## Rules, Roles, and Leaders

Vladimir Putin - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir\\_Putin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Putin)

Profile of the president of Russia

Mikhail Gorbachev - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikhail\\_Gorbachev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikhail_Gorbachev)

Profile of the leader of the USSR who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mikhail Gorbachev Official Website - <http://www.mikhailgorbachev.org/>

Features films and information on Gorbachev's current life in politics.

## Recreation and Celebration

Public Holidays in Russia - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_holidays\\_in\\_Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_holidays_in_Russia)

## Values and Service

Perm State Univeristy - <http://www.psu.ru/?a=0&lang=Eng&m=008>

## Producers, Consumers, and Transporters

The Moscow Times - <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/indexes/01.html>

English language daily based in Moscow.

St. Petersburg Times - <http://www.sptimesrussia.com/>

English Language daily based in St. Petersburg.

The Trans-Siberia Railway - <http://www.geographia.com/russia/trasib01.htm>

All about the longest continuous rail line on earth.

## Global Connections and Interdependence

Official Perm City Site - <http://www.gorodperm.ru/en/relations.asp>

Contains information on all aspects of traveling to Perm.

# Russia Culture Kit Contents

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A hands-on learning culture kit is also available from Sister Cities that contains the following items:

- 2 large 1995 Perm calendars
- 1 white Russia Culture Kit binder
- 1 large 1996 Russia calendar
- 1 miniature Russian flag and stand
- 1 set of bookmarks
- **Russian Memories** book
- Perm School of Arts for Children brochure
- Perm Guest Book
- **Passport to the Perm Region**
- Russian Santa postcards
- 4 paperback children's books
- Perm city map
- **Russian Ballet** book
- Leningrad: The Summer Gardens postcards
- The Moscow Kremlin postcards
- Perm postcards
- Russian tea set: 5 cups, 3 jars, 1 pot, and 1 platter
- University of Perm booklet
- 1 black paperback booklet with paintings of men
- 1 black paperback booklet with tapestries
- 1 black paperback booklet with clothing
- 1 bill and 2 coins
- St. Basil's Cathedral earrings
- 1 black decorative tin
- yellow decorative jewelry: 2 earrings, 1 grape pin, 1 necklace
- **The Oxford Treasury of World Stories**
- **2 Favorite Russian Fairy Tales**
- **Russian Stories: A Dual Language Book**
- **Your First 100 Words in Russian**
- **Cultural Atlas of Russia & The Former Soviet Union**
- **The First Thousand Words in Russian**
- 1 Black Folder- **Folk Tales Around the World**
- 1 Black Folder- **Baba Yaga's Geese**



SISTER



CITIES  
OF LOUISVILLE, INC.

## Sister Cities of Louisville

**SCL Mission:** Sister Cities of Louisville, Inc. (SCL) is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to global friendship, multicultural understanding, and economic growth by developing lasting relationships between the Louisville area and its Sister Cities around the world. To that end, SCL promotes, fosters, and publicizes local, state, and national programs of international municipal cooperation.

Sister Cities honors the following values to pursue its mission of peace and friendship:

- To create opportunities for Louisville citizens and citizens of Sister Cities to work together in creating international community partnerships.
- To develop municipal partnerships between Louisville and its Sister Cities.
- To stimulate exchanges and projects in the areas of professional economic development, education, community initiatives, arts and culture, medicine, tourism, and technology.
- To promote public awareness of our Sister Cities through community outreach and people-to-people relationships.
- To collaborate with local international organizations with similar goals.

**History of SCL:** Sister Cities of Louisville, Inc. became one of the first of many Sister City organizations to develop after World War II, when President Dwight Eisenhower proposed his "People-to-People" idea in 1956. President Eisenhower's intention was to involve individuals and organize groups at all levels of society in citizen diplomacy, with the hope that personal relationships, fostered through Sister City, county and state affiliations, would lessen the chance of future world conflicts.

### Sister Cities of Louisville:

Montpellier, France - 1954  
Quito, Ecuador - 1962  
Mainz, Germany - 1977  
Tamale, Ghana - 1979  
La Plata, Argentina - 1994  
Perm, Russia - 1994  
Jiujiang, China - 2004  
Leeds, England - 2006

[www.sclou.org](http://www.sclou.org)