

CUSTOMS RULES AND RESTRICTIONS ON ARRIVAL IN RUSSIA

You go through customs at an airport after you have collected your baggage and while passing through “green” or “red” channels. When crossing the Russian border by train or car, you pass through customs. You should pay attention to the color signs (green and red arrows or signs). Passing through the green channel is equivalent to stating that you have nothing to declare, so if you accidentally take the green channel and items to be declared are found in your baggage during a random check, it will be categorized as a proven administrative violation for which you will face severe penalties.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO MANDATORY DECLARATION ON ARRIVAL:

1. Cash foreign currencies and cash equivalents (e.g., traveller’s cheques and certificated stocks and securities) exceeding \$ 10,000 USD.
2. Precious metals, precious stones, and objects of cultural interest.
3. Commercial goods for resale (if their total value exceeds 65,000 rubles and (or) their gross weight exceeds 35 kg).
4. Alcohol (if more than 3 litres). Tobacco products (if more than 50 cigars or cigarillos, 200 cigarettes, and 0.25 kg of tobacco).
5. Animals. You must be able to present an electronic chip, the passport of the animal, and a veterinary certificate.
6. Items for personal use:
 - Imported by air transport, customs value of which exceeds the equivalent of 10,000 euros and a total weight exceeding 50 kilograms;
 - Imported by other transport, customs value of which exceeds the equivalent of EUR 1,500 and the total weight of which exceeds 50 kilograms.
7. The standard list of items prohibited for import or requiring special permission to import: drugs, firearms and ammunition, powerful medications, toxic and explosive materials, rare animals and their products, special high-precision electronic equipment, etc.

Additional information for point 6. Foreign nationals may temporarily import without paying customs duties the items they need for personal use in the Russian Federation throughout the period of their temporary stay (excluding vehicles). Only those temporarily imported goods that have been declared can be re-exported without paying duties. If you fail to re-export the goods declared on arrival in the country, duties will be levied on them that can amount to 30% of the cost of an item. The full list of Russian customs restrictions can be found on the website of the Customs Service of Russia: eng.customs.ru/index.php

CUSTOMS RESTRICTIONS ON DEPARTURE FROM RUSSIA

You go through customs at an airport after you have checked in for your flight and handed in your luggage and before passing through passport control (the “green” or “red” channel). When crossing the border by train or car you go through customs on the border.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO MANDATORY DECLARATION ON DEPARTURE:

1. Cash foreign currencies exceeding \$ 3,000 USD and cash equivalents (traveller's cheques) exceeding \$ 10,000 USD. Any certificated stocks and securities.
2. Precious metals, precious stones, objects of cultural interest, and state awards of the Russian Federation.
3. Animals. You must be able to present an electronic chip, the passport of the animal, and a veterinary certificate.
4. The standard list of items prohibited for export or requiring special permission to export: drugs, firearms and ammunition, powerful medications, toxic and explosive materials, rare animals and their products (including sturgeon caviar and salmon roe in the amount of over 250 g per person), special high-precision electronic equipment, etc.

In particular, an export permit is required to export icons, paintings (even if they were painted a day before by amateur artist), carpets, and non-electric samovars. Most galleries will assist you in obtaining this permit if you make a purchase. You can also apply for an export permit on your own to the Department of Conservation of Cultural Heritage of the Russian Ministry of Culture or an intermediary agency. Please note that the Ministry of Culture is not obligated to issue such a permit. You will be refused an export permit for objects of over 100 years old as their export is prohibited by law.

The full list of customs restrictions can be found on the website of the Customs Service of Russia: eng.customs.ru/index.php

NB !!!! If your tour starts not in Russia and you arrive to Russia after visiting another country(f.e. Finland or any other neighbour country) and if your luggage was lost upon arrival to this country and was not found until you reach Russia you are obliged to fill in customs declaration when crossing the Russian border in which you have to fix that your luggage was lost and still not found. Otherwise when your luggage will be delivered to Russia you'll have to pay for customs clearance (4 euros per each kilo).