

«Unity in Diversity: Russia and the English-Speaking World.

Time for Equal Opportunities»

«Единство в различии: Россия и англо-говорящий мир.

Время Равных Возможностей»

Unusual places for travelers in Russia and the United Kingdom

Необычные места для путешественников

в России и Объединённом Королевстве

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Theses

1. What unusual sights and attractions encourage restless travelers to visit the parts of the world which are less popular with tourists?
2. If you “let your heart desire”, you will be able to discover “a whole new world” in most familiar places.
3. Literary tours are as different as tastes. You will be able to see the country and spend time with like-minded people who share your interest and passion either you are fond of Leo Tolstoy or Jane Austen.
4. The best man-made constructions which cannot be moved to another location are waiting to be explored by inquisitive travelers.
5. According to Albert Einstein, the joy of looking and comprehending is nature’s most beautiful gift.
6. Being our common heritage, sacred spots of the ancient world have been sparking interest in people of all nationalities and religions for centuries.
7. Both countries are rich in unique places where you can escape from the boredom of daily routine, try new activities, make friends with foreigners and get bright impressions.

**‘We wander for distraction,
but we travel for fulfillment.’**

Hilaire Belloc

(British writer and historian)

Introduction

Both the UK and Russia attract flocks of people, young and old, ravenous for guided tours around the Tower or the Kremlin and taking pictures day and night. They see exotic animals in zoos and have fun at Legoland or Gorky Park. There are others, though, who are ready to go off the beaten track. They greet the challenge of long distances and even dangers to face the greatest mysteries of our planet or admire the wild beauty of some remote places.

What unusual sights and attractions encourage restless travelers to visit the parts of the world which are less popular with tourists?

To See a World in a Grain of Sand...

First of all, there is no need to leave your home town to discover some strange places. For example, the London Transport Museum is putting on another round of its hugely popular Hidden London tours, where you'll be able to nose around a deep-level World War II shelter and the disused Down Street station where Prime Minister Winston Churchill held cabinet war meetings and took refuge during the Blitz. They have also added two new locations, including the tunnels below Euston station and London's first skyscraper at St. James's Park, if you fancy coming up for air. **(Pic.1)**; whereas in Moscow in 2006 the Museum of the Cold War opened in the underground bunker next to Taganskaya metro station. It is an interactive museum where visitors can explore formerly secret tunnels wearing helmets and protection suits, try out the responsibilities of a radiotelegraphist and even "launch" nuclear warheads by pressing the notorious

red button. **(Pic.2)** This underground complex occupies more than 7,000 square meters.

Visitors often see ghosts in the tunnel where the Neglinnaya River flows. A private company organizes an excursion along one part of the tunnel and to the stone mines. **(Pic.3)** However, even a planned excursion can be abruptly cancelled because of rain as the water in the river frequently floods.

Those who are not ready to enter the stone tunnel through a sewer can enjoy panoramic views from the rooftops of Moscow's skyscrapers.

If you “let your heart desire”, you will be able to discover “a whole new world” in most familiar places.

Literary Tours

There are books which teach readers to see unusual in everyday objects. In Moscow you are invited to go on a five-hour walking tour in the footsteps of *The Master and Margarita*. Participants will set off in search of the tram at Patriarch's Ponds; the Griboyedov restaurant where one night the poet Ivan Bezdomny showed up in striped underwear with an icon around his neck; the alley where the Master and Margarita first met... Bulgakov's contemporaries would easily recognize their city in the other details, had the novel been printed at that time. Since then, the city has changed a lot – some houses have been demolished or rebuilt unrecognizably, but through the layers, it is possible to glimpse Bulgakov's Moscow.

As people the world-over have been enchanted by J.K. Rowling's novels, *Warner Bros. Studio Tour London* provides an opportunity to explore the magic of the Harry Potter™ films. This unique walking tour takes you behind-the-scenes and showcases a huge array of beautiful sets, costumes and props. You can explore Dumbledore's office and discover never-before-seen treasures, step onto the famous cobbles of Diagon Alley and see iconic props from the films, including Harry's Nimbus 2000.

Literary tours are as different as tastes. You will be able to see the country and spend time with like-minded people who share your interest and passion either you are fond of Leo Tolstoy or Jane Austen.

Man-made Wonders

Man's genius is capable of producing great ideas and turns them into magnificent images either on paper or in stone. You can follow Miss Marple's example and embark on a coach tour of historic English houses. The UK is proud of majestic castles inviting you to enjoy splendid architecture, fabulous parks and some extra activities. For instance, in Warwick Castle you can watch brave knights fighting on horseback dressed in traditional costumes; explore Merlin's cave beneath Tintagel Castle or have hours of fun getting lost amongst the 3000 Yew Hedges in Marlborough Maze in the gardens of Blenheim Palace. **(Pic. 4 –6)**

To see Russian churches made of white stone, fortifications, monasteries, and learn more about the country's history the 'Golden Ring' route can be highly recommended. It is renowned for the famous old cities and towns (Vladimir, Suzdal, Kostroma, Yaroslavl, Rostov, Pereslavl-Zalesskiy, Sergiev Posad). Just as pilgrims travel to Canterbury to Thomas Becket's shrine the Russians revered St. Sergius of Radonezh in the Holy Trinity Lavra.

Modern art is also impressive. It is presented in the form of unique bridges such as Gateshead Millennium Bridge - the world's first and only tilting bridge - in Newcastle and the bridge to Russky Island - the world's longest cable-stayed bridge – in Vladivostok; skyscrapers like the Shard and the Federation Tower; monuments: the Force of Nature, the Angel of the North, Children Are the Victims of Adult Vices, etc. There is even the Temple of All Religions, or Universal Temple, in the Russian city of Kazan! **(Pic. 7 – 14)**

The best man-made constructions which cannot be moved to another location are waiting to be explored by inquisitive travelers.

Natural Wonders

The great English landscapist John Constable once said that imagination cannot alone produce an artistic skill that could stand comparison with the reality. It is nature that created awesome waterfalls and snowcapped mountains. You will have to overcome hundreds of miles to look at some singular sights like the Giant's Causeway lying at the foot of the basalt cliffs along the sea coast on the edge of the Antrim plateau in Northern Ireland. The most characteristic and unique feature of the site is the exposure of some 40,000 large, regularly shaped polygonal columns of basalt. Celebrated in the arts and in science, it has been a visitor attraction for at least 300 years. **(Pic. 15)**

“The river of rocks” cannot boast such fame, but it is not less amazing. It is a chaotic jumble of huge boulders flowing down the slope of the Taganay mountain ridges in the Southern Urals, Russia. The river is 6 km long and on average 200 meters in width. **(Pic. 16)**

If you like the scent of campfires and morning mists, forests and mountains and are physically healthy, take one of the “classical mountain trekking” or the Ural sidecar motorcycles tours. A once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the Ural adventure unlike any other awaits you. **(Pic. 17 - 18)**

There are lots of footpaths crossing the landscape all over the UK, too. The National Parks such as the Brecon Beacons can offer climbing, caving, horse-riding and mountain biking. Tour operators are ready to provide en-suite B&B accommodation, daily bag transfer, detailed maps and 24-7 emergency support making your holiday most enjoyable. **(Pic. 19)**

According to Albert Einstein, the joy of looking and comprehending is nature's most beautiful gift.

Great Mysteries

There are places combining all possible and impossible attractions such as the Lake Districts which can be found both in the UK and Russia. Their scenic beauty has inspired many writers, for example, the Lake Poets and famous artists like Ivan Shishkin, Arkhip Kuindzhi and Nicholas Roerich.

When it comes to the history of settlement in the Russian north we are interested to learn how our ancestors built their houses and got the food. Moreover, the numerous museums provide evidences that different ethnic groups lived peacefully in the neighborhood, despite their own languages and traditions. Watching farmsteads and copper mines, Brantwood Barkpeeler's Hut and Eskdale Mill travelers get an idea of English people's lifestyle centuries ago. But the mysterious Stone Circles, for instance, Swinside, Copt Howe Rock Carvings; artefacts in the abandoned Pegrema village, Karelian petroglyphs and Ancient Sami stone labyrinth on Solovetsky Island still keep their secrets. **(Pic. 20 - 29)**

Being our common heritage, sacred spots of the ancient world have been sparking interest in people of all nationalities and religions for centuries.

Conclusion

The longing for novelty is what has always been moving travelers. **Both countries are rich in unique places where you can escape from the boredom of daily routine, try new activities, make friends with foreigners and get bright impressions.** Even after a short business trip you will still have a story to tell and some photos to show off!

Illustrations

Picture 1:



Hidden London tours

Picture 2:



The underground bunker next to Taganskaya metro station

Source: elpida.ru

Picture 3:



Syani stone mines

Source: mosextreme.ru

Picture 4:



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Warwick Castle knights' fight

Picture 5:



Merlin's Cave

Picture 6:



Marlborough Hedge Maze

Picture 7:



Gateshead Millennium Bridge

Picture 8:



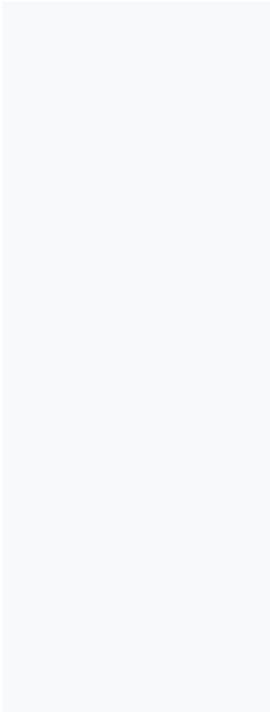
Russky Bridge

Picture 9:



The Shard

Picture 10:



The Federation Tower

Picture 11:



The Force of Nature

Picture 12:



The Angel of the North

Picture 13:



Children Are the Victims of Adult Vices

Picture 14:



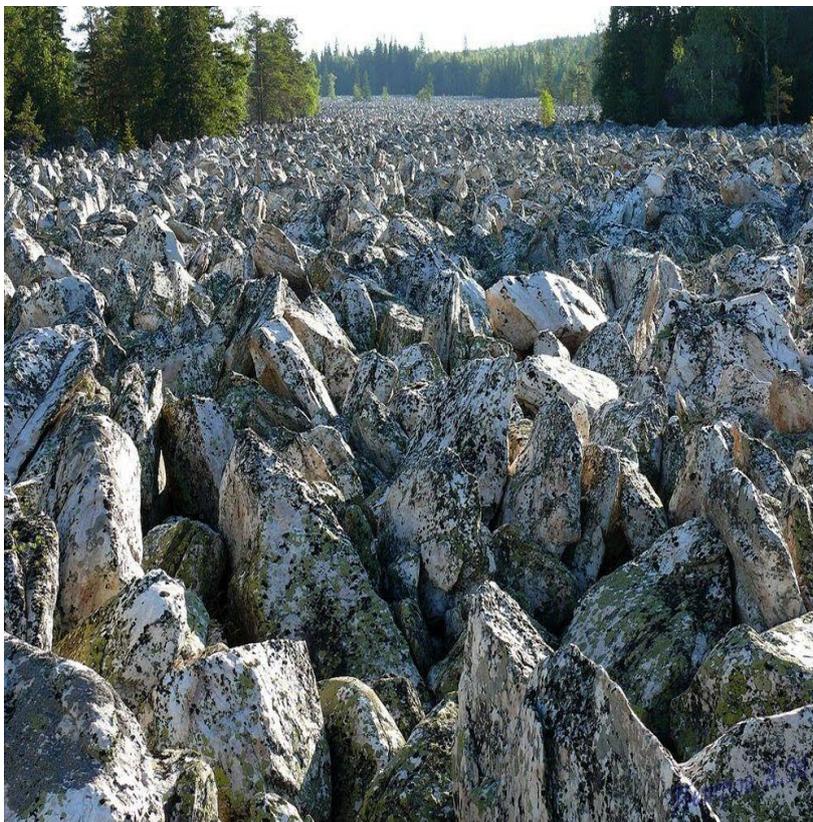
The Temple of All Religions, or Universal Temple

Picture 15:



Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast

Picture 16:



The Big Stone River

Picture 17:



Picture 18:



Picture 19:



The Brecon Beacons

Picture 20:



The abandoned village

Picture 21:



Gaitscale Farmstead

Picture 22:



Coniston Copper Mines

Picture 23:



Brantwood Barkpeeler's Hut

Picture 24:



Eskdale Mill

Picture 25:



Swinside Stone Circle

Picture 26:



Copt Howe Rock Carvings

Picture 27:



The Duckling in Pegrema

Picture 28:



Karelian petroglyphs

Picture 29:



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Ancient Sami stone labyrinth on Solovetsky Island

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