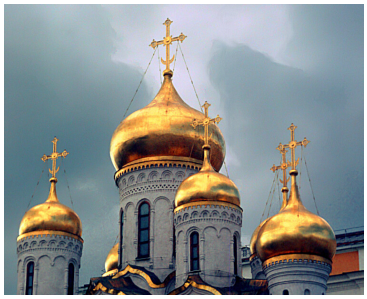


Northern Europe - Russia

Cultural, Leisure

Country : Northern Europe - Russia August 1998

The most beautiful pictures





Interrail is the most convenient and cheapest way to travel, as long as you are under 26 years old. This travel, done by train for most of the destinations, covers Northern Europe, as well as Moscow and St. Petersburg

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By Olivier Paudex

Introduction

Europe by train is great. Especially with the **interrail** formula which allows to travel a whole month for a fixed price of CHF 250.- (in 1998). This adventure, shared with a student friend, started at the**Basel** station. First train to **Berlin**, then an idea to go to **Scandinavia (Sweden, Finland)** and to finish in **Russia**, country

where the **interrail** is not valid, but where public transport is very cheap.

Berlin

Berlin, 9 years after the fall of the wall, has changed a lot, but remains well impregnated with the communist regime. A few pieces of walls here and there. Old **"Trabant"** cars all colored dating in my eyes of a revoked time. **Berlin** is a city under construction and in permanent renovation.





Cars of the Trabant brand



Berlin at the time of the wall



Old walls preserved for history

Potsdam

Potsdam is a suburb of **Berlin**, located 30 minutes by train from **Berlin**. It is especially the place where the **Sanssouci** Palace was built, the summer residence of the Prussian king, **"Frederick the Great"**. After the Second World War it became an attraction open to the public.



Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam

Danemark

Denmark is a country whose main area is as big as Switzerland, about 42'924 km^2. But Denmark has other islands, such as **the Faroe Islands** and **Greenland**. In all, the kingdom of Denmark covers an area of more than 2'210'579 km^2. As an obligatory passage to Sweden, Denmark is a complex of islands, the main ones of which have been linked by magnificent bridges.

Gording

Gording is the first town where the train stops after crossing the German border. First stop and first youth hostel.



Gording station, roof and youth hostel

Copenhagen

Capital of Denmark, located on the largest island of the archipelago, **Seeland**. **Copenhagen** is especially known for its small-siren and its colorful buildings.





Symbol of Denmark, the little mermaid

Sweden

Sweden is about ten times the size of Switzerland, yet only 1.5% of its area is inhabited. 87% of the inhabitants live in large cities.

Lund

Lund is a small town, located above **Malmö**. **Lund** has an old train converted into a youth hostel.





Lund Youth Hostel

Ales Stenar

Ales Stenar is located at the southernmost point of Sweden. It is an ancient megalithic site, like Stonehenge in England.





Ales Stenar's site

Stockholm

Capital of Sweden, **Stockholm** is 4 hours by train from **Lund**. Stockholm has more than 2 million inhabitants (in 1998).





Finlande

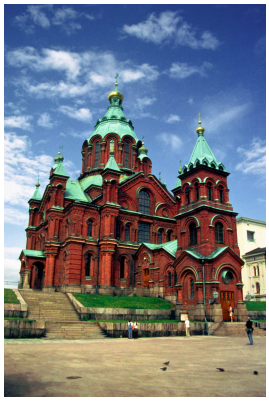
To reach Finland from **Stockholm**, nothing better than the ferry. The journey between Stockholm and **Turku** takes all night.



Stockholm – Turku Ferry

Helsinki

Helsinki is the capital of Finland. Located in the Gulf of Finland, which it shares with**Tallinn**, to the south, and **St. Petersburg**, to the east, Helsinki enjoys a temperate climate, compared to the rest of the country. It has a population of 600'000 inhabitants (in 1998).


The railway station, the Uspenski cathedral and the white Lutheran church

Russia

Russia is the largest country in the world. It is made up of three quarters of the Asian continent and a quarter of the European continent. It represents alone, more than **11% of the world's land**. Russia was born from the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Some very special memories

When we come from Switzerland or Europe, we are used to everything being clean and functional. But in Russia, things are very different.

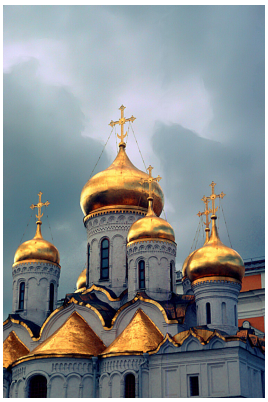
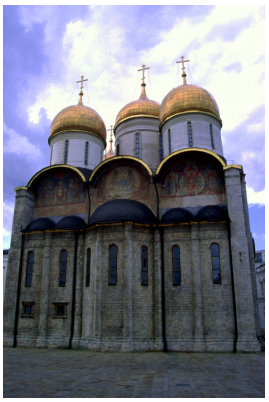
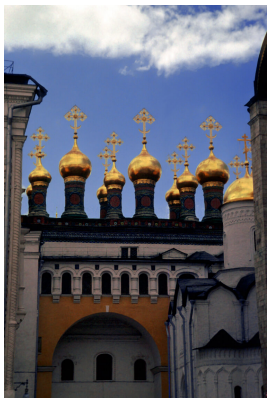





The showers, the railroad tracks, the statue of Lenin

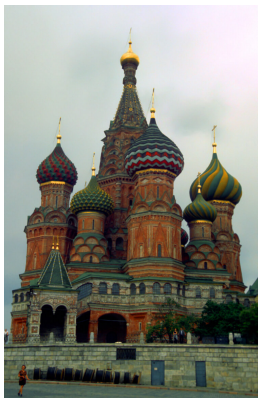
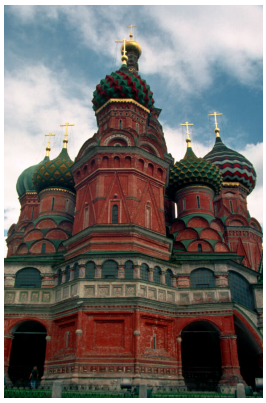
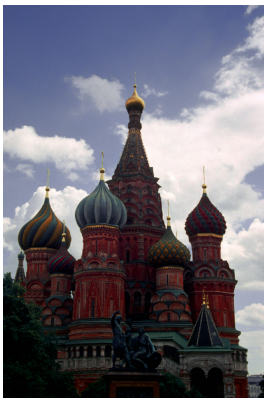
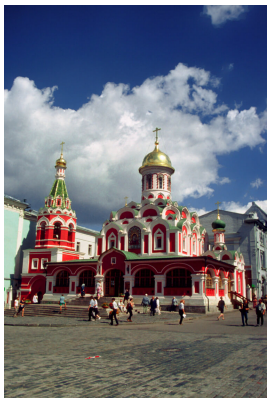
Moscow

The best way to reach **Moscow** is by night train from **Helsinki**. **Moscow** is the capital of Russia. It has 11 million inhabitants (in 1998). It is the most populated city in Russia and in the whole Europe.





Kremlin Square

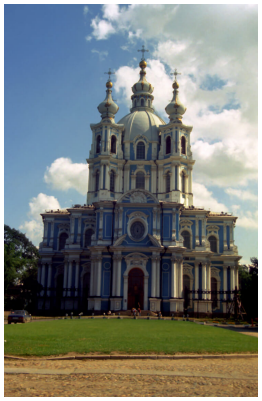
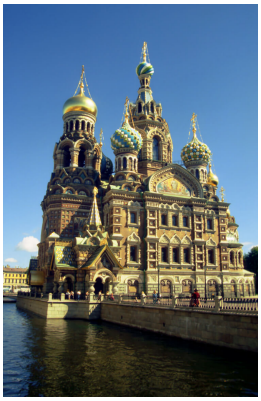
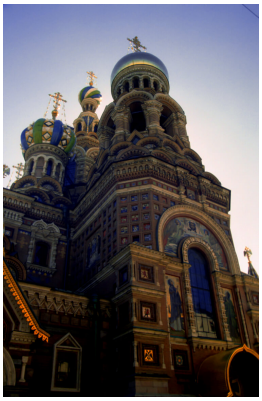
St-Petersbourg

St. Petersburg is the second largest city in Russia. It has almost 5 million inhabitants (in 1998). It was founded in 1703 by **Peter the Great**. The city is divided in two by the **Neva River**. It was the capital of the Russian Empire until 1917. The hermitage museum is one of its main assets.





Old Jew's harp, Hermitage Museum, Peter the Great

The Hermitage, Smolny Cathedral and St. Savior-on-the-Blood cathedral