

Dear Travellers,

In preparation for your travel plans to visit Russia in August 2019 with Australian Sports Tours (AST), we are pleased to invite you to use our streamlined Russian Visa Services.

Our office is located in Sydney's Bondi Junction less than 1km from the Russian Consulate. Our visa services are available to everyone all around Australia. We use Australia Post's registered mail service for passport collections/deliveries for all customers (or if you are Sydney based you can drop-off/collect your passport yourself).

We offer **two options** of support to choose from: (DIY or Concierge Services)

**Option 1: "Russian Visa Invitation Document" (DIY – do it yourself)**

In this case we add value by providing you with a "Visa invitation Document" (which is an official document needed as part of your Russian visa application) which can be obtained via our website:  
<https://www.56thparallel.com/russian-visa-application/tourist-visa-form/>

**Please note:** With this option there is no other support included other than the "invitation" document; the rest of the visa application process you must do yourself.

**Option 2: Concierge Visa Application Services (we do everything for you)**

For travellers who want a streamlined, hassle free process, our service provides professional Russian visa specialists to take care of every step of the process. We provide this service for AUD \$445 per applicant (plus registered post costs if applicable)

For detailed information about our Concierge visa service and to apply, please click here:  
<https://www.56thparallel.com/russian-visa-application/tourist-visa-services/>

**Information to consider:**

The additional cost for you to use a professional Concierge service such as ours (rather than doing it yourself) is around \$150, since the cost to do it yourself is \$250-\$300

A Russian visa application can be applied for no earlier than 90 days prior to travel date into Russia. Also be aware that your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after you leave Russia (i.e. passport expiry date after 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020).

We recommend that you **get in touch in April 2019** to start the process; given your AST Ashes tour commences in late July 2019.

Michael Schneider  
56th Parallel – Russia Travel Specialists

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## RUSSIAN VISA APPLICATION PROCESS EXPLAINED

Below is a summary of the steps involved in obtaining your Russian tourist visa via our **Concierge** visa application service:

1. Before the application process begins, all applicants must obtain an official “invitation” document – we arrange this for you.
2. You will then complete an [online information form](#) requiring personal info & travel info, ready for us to complete your Russian visa application form (please note that AST will be providing us with your travel info relating to your time in Russia eg. flight details, hotels, etc.)
3. Once all your information is complete & correct, we will email you the official Visa application forms for you to print, sign & date.
4. You will post all items listed below by Australia Post (**registered post**) service to our office:
  - completed & signed application form
  - 2 passport photos 3.5cm X 4.5cm
  - Valid Australian passport
5. We physically take your application form/photos/passport and lodge your application in person at the Russian Consulate (located less than 1km from our office). We also pay the visa application fees on your behalf when we lodge your application.
6. Normal Consulate processing time for your visa is approx. 14-20 business days  
(Note – if you require fast service, your visa can be processed in 2-4 business days via the Consular expedited service for an additional \$120 per passport, please advise in advance, if this service is needed).
7. Once your visa is granted, the Russian Consulate lets us know it’s ready, then we personally go to the Consulate to pick up your passport (the Russian visa is pasted onto a whole page in your passport)
8. We mail your passport back to you via Australia Post (registered post) to your requested delivery address

We take care of every step of the visa process. The only steps that require your involvement are:

- [Information gathering & online payment.](#)
- After you complete the online form, there may be some points that need clarification and we will contact you by phone or email to ensure it’s all submitted correctly
- Passport photos X 2 (3.5cm X 4.5cm)
- You will need to get these yourself at your local passport photo provider
- Mailing your passport / photos / signed forms via registered post

\*Please ensure you send a self-addressed **registered post** envelope for the return of your passport to your address

If you have any questions please feel free to get in touch by calling our office or emailing us.

Michael Schneider

56<sup>th</sup> Parallel – Russia travel Specialists

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