

Metro Cards, Phone Cards and Cultural Event Tickets

Metro Cards

To ride the metro system in Russia, you will need a magnetic plastic card or coin that will be fed into the turnstile before you ride the escalator down to the underground metro stations. Upon arrival in Russia, your Mission Trip Director will give you a metro card that will have enough rides credited to the card for your entire trip. Remember the following;

1. Feed the card in the turnstile with the **magnetic side facing up**.
2. Wait for the card to return to you after being read.
3. If the card doesn't return, your card has run out of rides.
4. Keep this handy in your wallet or day pack.
5. Most cards are only good for 14 days after purchase.

Phone Cards

Advise the Mission Trip Director if you wish to purchase an International Phone Cards. This will allow you to call home during your trip. The Mission Trip Director will have these on hand when you arrive. Please pay for them upon receipt as these are not included in your mission trip fare. Remember the following:

1. Ensure you are using a phone that can switch from pulse to touch tone. Russia is not on a touch tone telephone communication system.
2. Follow the instructions exactly on the back of your card.
3. If you have trouble, ask someone who has been on a trip before.
4. Primetime for International telephone calls is around 10pm in Russia. Don't be discouraged if you don't get through. It's probable that the international phone circuits are busy.

Cultural Event Tickets

A signup list will be passed around during training for those wishing to purchase tickets to a cultural event (Ballet, Circus, etc). This will be done very close to the trip as many venues don't publish their shows and times no more than a few weeks ahead. The Mission Trip Director will do their best to secure tickets in advance. Depending on the venue and the time of year, event tickets like the Russian ballet are taken up quickly. Remember the following:

1. Decide BEFORE the trip if you want to go. Ticket prices will vary.
2. Large groups will likely not sit together. Groups of 2 to 4 are most common.
3. Foreigners will pay "western style prices" for tickets, much more than Russians.
4. Lead translators escorting the group to the Ballet will have their tickets paid by SAC.
5. Other opportunities may be available from the front desk in the hotel lobby at a slightly higher rate. Coordinate with the Mission Trip Director if you wish to make your own arrangements. You must coordinate in advance for translator availability and pay for the translator's ticket and their time.