**Russia- places to visit**

The scientific and technological progress of the 21st century has allowed people to overcome time and distance. The whole world is open now. Modern life is impossible without travelling. Thousands of people travel every day for business or for pleasure.

Russia has always been a country appealing to many tourists. Because of its culture, architecture, customs, traditions and natural wonders.

There are a lot of places of interest here in our country. The most popular cities to visit are Moscow and St. Petersburg. If you are keen on nature and care about the ecology, it would be a good idea to visit Baikal. It is a unique place in terms of nature and wild life.

I personally like St. Petersburg and would like to tell you about one of the most outstanding art museums. It is the State Hermitage the largest fine arts museum in Russia. Paintings covering a span of from the 13th to the 20th centuries can be seen there. Among them there are masterpieces created by Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael and Titian.

In addition to the works of Western masters, the Hermitage has sections devoted to the arts of India, China, Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. People come to admire the collections of tapestry, weapons and furniture as well.