

**Seminar 8: What are the primary traits of character of the Russian Culture?**

❖ One Half day

Content:

- Generalities:
  - The cultural “Matrioshka”: Description of Russian symbols, heroes, rituals and values. (Comparison with other countries)
  - The place of Art (literature particularly) in Russian society
  - Particularism: Relationships Vs. Rules
  - Collectivism: The Group Vs. the Individual
  - A “Masculine” society: the importance of gender roles definition
  - Russians and technology
  - “Green” Russia: Environment/Architecture Vs. Nature interactions
  - Russian Time: Polychronic at heart but strive for monochronism,
  - Kinesthetic Russia
- Practical tips:
  - Russian etiquette expatriates are likely to be surprised with: Telephone, Outdoor behavior, what is “politically correct” in Russia, the volume of the voice, Use of patronymic/diminutive names etc...
  - Education in Russian culture – past and present. (system, level, friendship)
  - “Doma”: The Russian relation to their “Home” (building & family); tips on invitations patterns (snacks, gifts, chocolates...); Moscow Vs. the regions.
  - What is Russian nationalism? A (very) brief overview of the political situation in today’s Russia (subject to changes).
  - Russian Democracy... with Russian and foreign eyes (case of the French press).

Why?

In order to fully understand the society they are living in, expatriates may want to learn the hidden aspects of the Russian culture. Such seminar is also the occasion to ask freely all questions resulting from misunderstanding, shock or perplexity.

Audience:

Foreign expatriates.