



I love snow, so I set my story in winter. That way, I could make the original story's castle an ice palace.

After looking at photos of ornate buildings in Russia, we went to St. Petersburg and Novgorod, Russia to see the onion domed buildings that fired my imagination.

Our guide Katya showed us around the countryside where we saw exquisite art, museums displaying traditional ball gowns, and theaters presenting ballet, folk dancing and balalaika music.

At night, we ate delicious Russian dishes and even took a "Banya" – hot steambath.





