

Russia's Romantic Soul: Moscow, Novgorod & St Petersburg 2023

11 JUN – 27 JUN 2023

Code: 22225

Tour Leaders **Dr Adrian Jones, OAM**

Physical Ratings 

Travel to Moscow, St Petersburg & Novgorod in summer when the days are warm & long. Explore magnificent palaces, world-class museums, onion-domed churches & grand public architecture.

Overview

Travel with [Associate Professor Adrian Jones](#), a Harvard graduate and expert in Russian and Ottoman history. In 2008 he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his 'service to history education as a lecturer and author, and for executive roles in a range of historical and teaching organisations'. We visit Moscow, St Petersburg and Novgorod in June, when the days are warm and long and the boulevards are lined with flowerbeds in a riot of colour.

- Explore the 'Russian soul' in politics, religion, society, literature, music and dance, urbanism, art and architecture.
- Enjoy 2 performances in historic 19th-century theatres – one in Moscow and one in St Petersburg.
- Walk through Moscow's Red Square to tour Ivan the Terrible's remarkable St Basil's Cathedral.
- Spend a day at the Moscow Kremlin; marvel at the exquisite Fabergé eggs and other Imperial treasures in the Armoury Museum.
- Visit two of the world's greatest art collections, housing works by Da Vinci, Titian, Rubens, Rembrandt, Monet and Matisse – the Pushkin Museum in Moscow and the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.
- Explore the great collections of Russian Art in Moscow's Tretyakov Galleries and St Petersburg's Russian Museum.
- Investigate the recent history of the USSR with an extraordinary visit deep underground to the Moscow Tagansky Command Post, and a tour of the Museum of Political History in St Petersburg.
- Journey to Sergiev Posad to the Trinity Lavra of St Sergius, one of the most important monastic complexes in Russia, and listen to the sacred hymns sung by the seminary choir.
- Spend 2 days in historic Novgorod, exploring its old cathedral and Kremlin, its beautiful small churches, icon and archaeological museums and fascinating vernacular wood architecture.
- Visit the great Romanov palaces: Peter the Great's Monplaisir at Peterhof, Catherine the Great's Palace at Tsarskoye Selo and Paul's Pavlovsk.
- Cruise the waterways of St Petersburg and visit the Peter-Paul Fortress, the original site of Peter the Great's new city.
- Tour the Yusupov Palace, where the luxurious staterooms contrast with the basement where Rasputin was assassinated.
- Visit the Fabergé Museum in St Petersburg, an extraordinary collection of masterpieces from the master jeweller's studio.
- Dine at some of the country's finest restaurants that reflect the emergence of a 'new-style' of Russian cuisine, championed by a generation of young and innovative chefs.

Overnight Moscow (8 nights) • Novgorod (2 nights) • St Petersburg (6 nights).

About the Tour

Explore Russia's profound cultural diversity, from its historic roots in the shadow of the Byzantine Empire through Mongol rule to its emergence as a major European power. Russia's Orthodox, mystical, Asiatic past is reflected in brilliantly decorated, onion-domed churches like Moscow's St Basil's Cathedral and in shrines surrounded by the defensive walls of the Kremlin and Sergeiv Posad Monastery. The Baroque splendour and the calm, grand classicism of St Petersburg, on the other hand, reflect Russia's more recent European identity. Here we'll visit the great Winter Palace (Hermitage) and brilliant aristocratic residences like the Yusupov Palace. Outside the city the Catherine Palace, Pavlovsk and Peterhof rival Versailles in regal grandeur. In Moscow's fascinating Tretyakov Gallery and Pushkin Museum and St. Petersburg's vast Hermitage, richly coloured traditional icons contrast with some of Europe's greatest masterpieces, from Van Eyck and Da Vinci to Rembrandt, Cézanne and Matisse. By special appointment we visit the Golden Room

Special Collection at the Hermitage and see the extraordinary collection of golden artefacts from archaeological sites along the Central Asian steppe. Moscow's New Tretyakov Gallery has a vast collection of 20th and 21st-century Russian art including Soviet Realism, avant-garde artists such as Malevich, Kandinsky, Chagall, Goncharova and Popova, and the very latest in postmodernism.

Russia boasts one of the world's greatest literary cultures and a wonderful music tradition. We visit Leo Tolstoy's house, and enjoy performances in both Moscow and St Petersburg. Hanseatic Novgorod combines lovely old Orthodox churches with fine, small, merchant churches and one of the world's best village museums. In contrast, we'll see Lenin's mausoleum, take a tour of Revolutionary sites in St Petersburg and visit a Cold War command bunker with its astonishing tunnel network that shows what Soviet power meant behind the 'iron curtain'. We'll explore Russia's scenic waterways on relaxing river and canal cruises in Moscow and St Petersburg, attend two performances in glorious historic theatres, and dine at some of the country's finest restaurants that showcase the new style of Russian cuisine being championed by the latest generation of chefs.

Leaders



Dr Adrian Jones, OAM

Associate Professor of History and Director of Teaching and Learning in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, La Trobe University. Adrian is a Harvard graduate and expert in Russian and Ottoman history. He leads ASA tours to Russia, Romania and Slovenia.

Dr Adrian Jones OAM is the Associate Professor of History and the Director of Teaching and Learning in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at La Trobe University. He has a PhD in Russian history from Harvard University as well as a Masters degrees from Harvard and La Trobe Universities and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne. Since 1985 he has taught Russian, Ottoman and European histories at La Trobe University.

Interested in every aspect of history education, primary to tertiary, Adrian's work in this field of public education was recognised in 2008 by the award of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM). The award cited his 'service to history education as a lecturer and author, and for executive roles in a range of historical and teaching organisations'. Adrian's contributions to teaching have been recognised by awards for excellence from the History Teachers' Association of Victoria (2007), La Trobe's Dean of Humanities (2006) and Vice-Chancellor (2008), and the Australian Learning and Teaching Committee (2008).

Adrian's most recent work focuses on the Russian-Ottoman relations in the early 18th-century era of Peter the Great and Ahmet III.

Combine this tour with

Heritage Cities of the Baltic: Vilnius, Kaunas, Riga, Tartu & Tallinn 2023

27 JUN – 11 JUL 2023

Romania Revealed: Saxon Villages, Transylvanian Cities and Byzantine Monasteries 2023

24 MAY – 6 JUN 2023



Itinerary

The following itinerary lists a range of key sites which we plan to visit. The daily schedule is flexible as we need to work around the performance times. There is also a great deal of restoration work being carried out throughout Russia and sites may close without warning. You may expect that the daily activities described in this itinerary be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours. In exceptional cases, some planned visits may be changed. Meals included in the program have been indicated as: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner. Lunches and dinners included in the tour price will mostly be in Russian style restaurants and consist of 3 to 4 courses.

Moscow - 8 nights

Day 1: Sunday 11 June, Arrive Moscow

- Arrival Transfer for participants arriving on the ASA 'designated' flight
- Optional Evening orientation walk

Participants taking the ASA 'designated' flight from Australia will arrive in Moscow in the afternoon and will transfer directly to the [Hotel Peter I](#). If you are travelling independently to Moscow, ASA can arrange a private transfer for you, or you should take an officially marked taxi to the hotel. In the early evening Adrian will lead a short orientation walk in the area of the hotel. (Overnight Moscow)

Day 2: Monday 12 June, Moscow

- Red Square (incl. exterior of Lenin's mausoleum)
- St. Basil's Cathedral
- Welcome Dinner at Café Pushkin

This morning, after a welcome meeting and tour briefing, we visit Red Square and the Cathedral of St Basil. We explore the general layout and physical development of Red Square and its important place in the

history of Russia, its function as a grand parade ground, and its meaning as a symbol of Tsarist and then Soviet power. At one end of this great urban space is the Cathedral of St Basil, Ivan the Terrible's 16th-century masterpiece. St Basil's has a strictly symmetrical plan, but this is disguised by the extraordinary variety of its coloured, patterned domes that make the building seem asymmetrical and almost capricious. On another flank of Red Square, opposite the Kremlin, we shall also visit the emporia that have been opened in the 19th-century arcades encompassing Red Square.

We return to the hotel for some time at leisure to rest and freshen-up before our Welcome Dinner at the Café Pushkin, a grand old-style restaurant that evokes a bygone era. The downstairs is dominated by an elaborate bar and large windows illuminate the painted and carved ceiling. Upstairs, the 'Library' is divided into more intimate spaces by towering wooden bookshelves. **(Overnight Moscow) BD**

Day 3: Tuesday 13 June, Moscow

- Old Tretyakov Gallery
- Moskva River Cruise

Today we visit the Old Tretyakov Gallery, which boasts the finest collection of icons in Russia. It includes extremely rare works of the Kiev School (including a famous mosaic of St Demetrius of Thessalonika), the Byzantine School (including a 12th-century Byzantine image, the Virgin of Vladimir, originally deemed to have been painted by St Luke), and works from the School of Vladimir-Suzdal', the Pskov School, the Novgorod School and the Moscow School. This wonderful collection gives an excellent overview of the development of the art of the icon painter that followed the adoption of Byzantine religious culture by Russians. You will also become aware of the fact that, despite stylistic differences, icon painting in Russia has demonstrated an extraordinary continuity and unity of theme and treatment over the centuries. This is due to its liturgical meaning and artists' adherence for centuries to handbooks giving very exact rules for representation. You will also, however, be struck by the gorgeous, rich colours of these paintings, with a Byzantine love of luminous, lustrous courtly and ecclesiastical ritual, an appeal to the senses that fell on fertile ground in Russia.

In the late afternoon we will take a cruise along the Moskva River, past many of the city's greatest monuments. This grand river offers famous vistas of the powerful Kremlin walls, above which protrude the lustrous domes of its cathedrals. **(Overnight Moscow) B**

Day 4: Wednesday 14 June, Moscow

- Cathedrals and Palaces of the Kremlin
- Armoury Museum, Kremlin, including the Fabergé Egg collection
- Late lunch at 'Kormcha' Restaurant
- House of the Romanov Boyars

Moscow was founded in 1147 by Suzdal's Prince Yury Dolgoruky. It became Russia's capital in the 15th century, lost this status in 1712 to St Petersburg, and then regained it in 1918 after the Bolshevik Revolution. Whereas St Petersburg is an ideal city of a particular epoch, in Moscow's Kremlin we encounter art and architecture from a number of periods. This 90-acre brick fortress, constructed for the tsars by Italian master builders, encloses four cathedrals (Cathedral of the Assumption; Cathedral of the Twelve Apostles; Cathedral of the Archangel Michael; Cathedral of the Annunciation), and the Church of the Deposition of the Robe. Since the 15th century the Kremlin has stood for the centralisation of power in Tsarist and Soviet Russia. Its complex of churches and palaces speaks of the autocratic fusion of church and state in which even the aristocracy was 'enslaved' to the tsar. In Soviet times, and especially during the Cold War, the

Kremlin gained a special meaning in the West as a place of secretive rule, but this was true also of the Tsarist period, when all power was concentrated here.

Our Kremlin visit includes the Armoury Museum, the oldest and one of the richest museums in Russia. This was once the treasury of the Russian State. Here we shall see the sumptuous gold and silver collection accumulated by the tsars, which includes Russian and European masterpieces from the 12th century to the 20th century, and Russian and European arms and armour. Of particular importance is the priceless Fabergé collection that is a highlight of our visit.

We shall explore the gorgeous fresco cycles and icon collections of the Cathedral of the Archangel and the Cathedral of the Assumption, and you will be introduced to the rituals that took place in these beautiful churches. We will also visit the Patriarch's Palace and be shown Ivan the Great's Belltower, the Tsar Bell and the Tsar Cannon. After our visit to the Kremlin we shall walk to the nearby 'Kormcha' restaurant for a late lunch (2.30pm). *Please note that refreshment facilities are not available within the Kremlin complex.*

After lunch we visit the House of the Romanov Boyars, an unusual historic building believed to be the birthplace of Mikhail Romanov in 1596, the first tsar of the Romanov dynasty. The Romanovs moved to live in the Kremlin once they had assumed the crown, but Nicholas I restored the old Boyar palace and opened it to the public. Reopening again in 2019 after a recent extensive restoration, visitors can gain an insight into lives of Russian nobility during the 16th and 17th centuries. (Overnight Moscow) BL

Day 5: Thursday 15 June, Moscow

- Pushkin Museum & Museum of Private Collections
- Evening performance at the Bolshoi Theatre (*subject to performance schedule*)

We spend the day at the Pushkin Museum and Museum of Private Collections that combine to form Moscow's most important European art museum. This collection is similar to that of the Hermitage in St Petersburg, with Classical and Oriental antiquities, Italian, Spanish, Flemish, German, Dutch, French and English art from the 14th to the 18th centuries, and a fine collection of Impressionists and Post-Impressionists. Of particular note is the Matisse Room, with three masterpieces from his Morocco series.

We shall have lunch at a nearby local restaurant that specialises in traditional home-style dishes. This evening we attend a performance at one of the world's greatest theatres, the Bolshoi (*subject to performance schedule*). (Overnight Moscow) BL

Day 6: Friday 16 June, Moscow – Sergiev Posad – Abramtsevo – Moscow

- Trinity Lavra of St Sergius, Sergiev Posad
- Abramtsevo Artists' Colony

Today we drive out of Moscow to Sergiev Posad. The Trinity Lavra (monastery) of St Sergius at Sergiev Posad was founded in 1345 and rebuilt after the Mongol invasions of the following century. It became increasingly important, gaining the status of *lavra* in 1744. We shall visit the monastery to study its unique architecture. Its founder, the most significant church figure of the 14th century, was not a metropolitan but a humble monk, Sergy of Radonezh (1314-92). Around his hermitage, in the wilds 70km north-east of Moscow at the place subsequently named after him, was to develop one of the greatest of Russian monasteries, dedicated to the Holy Trinity (and eventually also to its saintly founder). We will have the opportunity to hear students from the seminary choir perform some of their sacred songs.

We then drive the short distance to the village of Abramtsevo where we tour a fascinating artists' colony, established in the late 19th century as part of the Slavophile Movement that celebrated Russia's rich folk traditions in art, literature and music. (Overnight Moscow) BL

Day 7: Saturday 17 June, Moscow

- Novodevichy Convent & Cemetery
- Underground Command Post Tagansky

This morning we visit the Novodevichy Convent, once a convent for noblewomen, which was founded by Grand Prince Vasili III in 1524. The monastery is, in fact, a fortress that, like other monasteries surrounding Moscow, was integral to the city's defence system. We shall tour the monastery to see such monuments as the Cathedral of the Virgin of Smolensk, with a distinctive bell tower dating from 1690. The cathedral itself was built in 1525 and contains 16th-century frescoes, as well as a magnificent late 17th-century iconostasis. There is also a convent that was a place of exile for noblewomen who were either in mourning or in disfavour, including Sophia, Peter the Great's sister who instigated a coup against him from here in 1698. The waters that flank the brilliant white and red walls and sparkling domes of this beautiful complex are said to have inspired Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*. We shall also visit the Novodevichy Cemetery, where many famous Russians are buried, among them Chekhov, Gogol, Prokofiev, Scriabin and Shostakovich.

It is now nearly three decades since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. This afternoon we explore 20th-century Soviet history with a visit to a fascinating Soviet-era site, the Underground Command Post Tagansky. Built in 1951, this super-secret bunker served as the command post, the main artery of communication for the Soviet Union in the event of a nuclear war. It was built to withstand direct hits and ensure that normal telecommunications would continue to function in the worst-case scenario. We enter from a nondescript building near the Taganskaya metro station. Upon passing this well-disguised entrance you are issued an identity card with a picture of yourself in a gas mask. We pass by a 6-ton concrete door which slides open to reveal a small set of stairs which we descend. After 22 flights of stairs (we will take the elevator) we reach the command centre. Here soldiers run a Geiger counter over each of us to test if we are contaminated with radiation. The bunker we have now entered is essentially a network of tunnels, totalling 7000 square metres. In these tunnels 2500 members of a survivor community could live and work. The bunker supplied everything they needed, including sleeping quarters, a canteen and bathing facilities. There was also a stockpile of food. You will be able to develop a vivid understanding of Cold War paranoia in Russia, the counterpart to much of the Western propaganda with which many of us grew up. The presentation is personable and not without flashes of typical Russian black humour. (Overnight Moscow) BL

Day 8: Sunday 18 June, Moscow

- New Tretyakov Gallery
- Lunch at Fahrenheit Restaurant
- Leo Tolstoy's home

We start today with a visit to the State Tretyakov at 10 Krymsky Val, commonly known as the New Tretyakov Gallery, a vast collection of 20th and 21st-century Russian art. In addition to Soviet Realist art, the gallery showcases Russian avant-garde artists such as Malevich, Kandinsky, Chagall, Goncharova and Popova, the modernists and the postmodernists.

We enjoy lunch at the Fahrenheit Restaurant, which showcases the new style of cuisine being brought to prominence by Russia's young, innovative chefs.

We end the day with a visit to Leo Tolstoy's home, which became a museum in 1928. The interior of the house, in which Tolstoy lived for most of his life, is as it was in 1910. The great writer produced most of his wonderful literary works here. The original furnishings, works of art, and the library that belonged to the writer's family, provide an extraordinary, vivid introduction to Tolstoy's life and social and intellectual ambience. (Overnight Moscow) BL

Novgorod - 2 nights

Day 9: Monday 19 June, Moscow – Novgorod

- Sapsan train Moscow – Chudovo (Business Class)
- Open-Air Museum of Wooden Architecture
- Yuriev Monastery & Cathedral of St George (exterior only)

This morning we transfer to Leningradsky Vokzal station and travel by Sapsan high-speed train to Chudovo in the Novgorod Oblast region. There we meet our coach and drive to the 12th-century Yuriev Monastery and the Cathedral of St George, just outside Novgorod. We also visit the Open-Air Museum of Wooden Architecture, where interesting examples of historic wooden churches and domestic architecture from the region have been collected.

In the late afternoon we arrive in Novgorod and check in to our hotel situated across from the historic kremlin. Dinner will be at the hotel. (Overnight Novgorod) BD

Day 10: Tuesday 20 June, Moscow – Novgorod

- Kremlin & St Sophia Church
- Yaroslav's Court
- Icon Exhibition and Archaeology Museum
- Afternoon at Leisure

Novgorod (literally 'New Town') was founded in the 9th century by Norsemen, who established the embryonic Russian state. By the 12th century the city, called 'Lord Novgorod the Great', was Russia's biggest. Independent of Kiev, this quasidemocracy whose princes were hired and fired by a citizens' assembly, had a strong, simple style of church architecture, icon-painting and folk music. Spared by the Mongols, Novgorod suffered at the hands of Moscow. Ivan III of Moscow attacked and annexed it in 1477, and Ivan the Terrible razed the city and slaughtered at least 27,000 people for conspiring with the Swedes. The founding of St Petersburg in 1703 marked Novgorod's eclipse as a trading city. Today, it is a regional centre (pop. 224,000) with one of Russia's best-preserved medieval kremlins and some outstanding religious and secular architecture from the 11th to 19th centuries.

Across the Volkhov River from Novgorod's old kremlin is Yaroslav's Court. This area comprises two blocks of architectural remnants as well as several surviving buildings. Here we shall explore the remains of old Novgorod's market, an array of churches sponsored by the 13th to 16th century merchant guilds, a 'road palace' built in the 18th century as a rest stop for Catherine the Great, and the court Cathedral of St Nicholas (1136).

We shall explore the kremlin, with a visit to the Cathedral of St Sophia (1050), one of the oldest buildings in Russia. Its west doors, captured from the Swedes, have fascinating cast-bronze biblical scenes. The icons within date back to the 14th century. Adjoining the cathedral is the 15th-century belfry and 17th-century clock tower. We shall visit Novgorod's excellent museum, housed in the Gothic Chamber of Facets, with

fine Novgorod icons and other treasures. You will be able to distinguish the characteristic features of the Novgorod icon school in the museum's collection. We shall also see the bronze Millennium of Russia Monument, unveiled in 1862 to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of Prince Riurik's arrival here.

The afternoon and evening will be at leisure to further explore this historic city on foot. (Overnight Novgorod) B

St Petersburg - 6 nights

Day 11: Wednesday 21 June, Novgorod – Peterhof – St Petersburg

- Peterhof Gardens and Monplaisir (Summer palace of Peter the Great)
- Hydrofoil from Peterhof to St Petersburg

We drive north today to St Petersburg via the grand country residence at Petrodvorets (Peterhof), which looks out on the Gulf of Finland. Peterhof (1711-1714) is located in the area of the German lines during the siege of Leningrad. It had been the summer residence of Peter the Great but was greatly expanded by Rastrelli, the Italian architect of the Hermitage and Tsarskoye Selo (Pushkin). Peterhof is surrounded by some of the most magnificent gardens in Russia. Of particular importance is the Lower Garden, the centrepiece of which is the Grand Cascade that is mounted by gold statues. We shall not tour the interior of the Rastrelli palace, for we shall be touring the magnificent palaces at Pushkin and Pavlovsk, but rather visit Peterhof's jewel, Monplaisir, the charming small summer palace in Peterhof's grounds, that Peter the Great designed by and for himself. True to Peter's taste, Monplaisir offered a mixture of grandeur and homely comfort. Completed by 1723 it became the Emperor's preferred retreat, where he entertained only his closest friends and advisors. Its rooms are almost entirely panelled in oak, and contain an interesting collection of 17th-century art, much of which comes from Peter's own collection. Among the highlights is the delightful Lacquered Gallery, the creation of which required Russian icon-painters to spend months studying Chinese lacquering. The result is an extraordinary mixture of black, gold and red panels with a distinctly Russian accent. The Assembly Hall, which was the main reception room and used for riotous banquets in Peter's time, is decorated with intricate rococo coving and latticed panels representing Africa, America, and Asia.

After our visit we board a hydrofoil and travel to St Petersburg, where we shall stay for the final six nights of our program. (Overnight St Petersburg) BD

Day 12: Thursday 22 June, St Petersburg

- 'Bronze Horseman' statue
- Morning Tea at the Astoria Hotel
- Menchikov Palace
- Peter-Paul Fortress, Zayachy Island
- Early dinner at Korushka Georgian Restaurant
- Canal & River Cruise

St Petersburg is one of the youngest capitals in Europe, founded by Peter the Great in 1703 after the Great Northern War with Sweden. Its monumental centre is one of the great urbanistic ensembles of the world, and one of its most explicit expressions of power in architecture. The city incorporates grand prospects flanked by majestic Baroque and Neo-Classical buildings, a number of which house major museums.

We drive to the wonderful statue of Peter the Great, known to locals and foreigners alike as the 'Bronze

Horseman'. Commissioned by Catherine the Great as a move to associate herself with this great tsar and the city's founder, this masterful work by Étienne Maurice Falconet shows Peter the Great astride his rampant horse atop a stone pediment: a conqueror, leader and visionary.

After a refreshing (and lavish!) morning tea at the Hotel Astoria, we visit the Menshikov Palace on the University Embankment of Vasilyevsky Island. The Baroque Palace was founded in 1710 and was the first major stone building in the city. It is now part of the Hermitage Museum and houses a collection of Russian art of the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Peter-Paul Fortress on Zayachy Island was inaugurated by Peter the Great in 1703 and completed in 1723. It comprises fortifications made up of curtain walls between projecting bastions. Within these fortifications was built the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul (1712-32). There are also the Grand-Ducal Mausoleum; the Peter Gate; a triumphal arch built by Domenico Trezzini; the Engineers' Building (now the Museum of St Petersburg Architecture); the Commandant's House (now the Museum of the History of St Petersburg); the Mint; and the Trubetskoy Bastion. The Cathedral has little in common with centrally-planned Russian churches. Surmounted by a tall spire possibly modelled upon that of Copenhagen's Exchange, it has an orientated plan with a nave and chancel like a western European church. Within are to be found the Imperial tombs (including that of Peter the Great), a Baroque iconostasis, pulpit and the tsar's throne. The adjacent Grand-Ducal Mausoleum houses a museum of the island.

We partake in an early dinner at Korushka Georgian restaurant, and the evening ends with a cruise on the Neva and along a number of St Petersburg's canals. The cruise will give you a vivid understanding of the way in which the city was constructed on delta marshes, leaving a ring of canals along which the aristocracy built its palaces. The canals give probably the best viewpoint for the lovely coloured Baroque and Neo-Classical façades of these palaces, whose visual and spatial relation to the waterways upon which they are located was inspired by Amsterdam's canal-side houses. (Overnight St Petersburg) BL

Day 13: Friday 23 June, St Petersburg

- State Hermitage Museum, including the Golden Room's Special Collection
- Performance at the Mikhailovsky or Mariinsky Theatre (*subject to performance schedule*)

Today we visit the great State Hermitage Museum – a splendid museum where one of the world's greatest art collections is located within one of Europe's most elaborate palaces. The ground floor holds collections on Primitive Culture and Art, Culture and Art of the Soviet East, and Oriental Culture and Art. On the first floor are the magnificent State Apartments, the most important interiors of the Winter Palace, and British and German Art. On the second floor are the superb Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and School of Paris collections.

We shall also make a visit (by special appointment) to the Golden Room Special Collection. Here we have the opportunity to see the extraordinary collection of Scythian and Greek gold and silver from the Caucasus, Crimea and Ukraine, one of the greatest collections of art from the 7th to the 2nd century BC.

The Small Hermitage holds beautiful apartments and the personal collection of Peter the Great, as well as West European Applied Art (11th-15th centuries), Early Netherlandish Art, and Romanov Portraits. We also visit the Large Hermitage, which houses Classical Antiquities, the Italian Schools (13th-18th centuries), Flemish and Dutch paintings (15th-18th centuries), and masterpieces of the Spanish School (16th-18th centuries). After a formal tour of the palaces and key parts of the collections, you will have time to explore sections of particular personal interest.

This evening we attend a performance at one of the beautiful, historic theatres of St Petersburg – the Mikhailovsky Theatre or the Mariinsky Theatre (*subject to performance schedule*). (Overnight St Petersburg) B

Day 14: Saturday 24 June, St Petersburg

- Morning Coach Tour, including exteriors of Smolny Institute, Tauride Palace, Kresty Prison and the Akhmatova Monument
- State Museum of Political History of Russia
- Church on the Spilled Blood/Saviour on the Blood (of the Resurrection)
- Russian Museum

This morning we take a coach tour to see some of the sites closely connected to the Russian Revolution. The Smolny Institute was founded in 1806 as a school for aristocratic girls and functioned as such until 1917 when Lenin chose the building as the Bolshevik headquarters during the October Revolution. Lenin lived here for several months until the national government moved to Moscow. The Tauride Palace was a seat of minor royalty and a venue for balls and exhibitions. In 1906 it was transformed into the seat of the first Russian Parliament, the Imperial State Duma. Following the February Revolution it housed the Provisional Government and the Petrograd Soviet. The Kresty Prison dates back to the mid-19th century. It was used to imprison common criminals and political prisoners, including Leon Trotsky and Alexander Kerensky. During the February Revolution the prison was stormed by the Bolsheviks, emulating the Storming of the Bastille during the French Revolution. Standing opposite the prison is a statue of the poet Anna Akhmatova. Her partner and her son were repeatedly incarcerated in the prison in the 1930s, and Akhmatova spent endless hours in the crowd of women in front of the prison waiting for news of their loved ones.

We take a tour of the State Museum of Political History of Russia. It houses a collection of artefacts owned by key figures in the history of Russia, including politicians, military leaders and scientists. It is a fascinating collection that provides a backdrop to tell the history of the Revolution, Civil War and the Stalin era.

We return to the centre of the city to visit the extraordinary Slavic revival Church of the Resurrection (1883-1907), built on the site of the assassination of Tsar Alexander II. This highly coloured revival of traditional Russian ecclesiastical architecture stands in stark contrast to the Neo-Classicism of the period of Catherine the Great. Within, the walls are covered with brilliant mosaics.

After time at leisure for lunch we shall visit the Russian Museum, housed in the magnificent Mikhailovsky Palace. Along with the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow, it is one of the country's two great museums of Russian art. Founded by Nicholas II in 1895, the museum has sections devoted to Russian icons and 18th-, 19th- and 20th-century history, landscape, portrait and modernist painting. Its great history paintings give fascinating insights into how Russians rediscovered their own history after a century of focus upon Western Europe. The museum also has some fine early modernist works, especially of Kandinsky. (Overnight St Petersburg) B

Day 15: Sunday 25 June, St Petersburg – Tsarskoye Selo – Pavlovsk – St Petersburg

- Catherine Palace at Tsarskoye Selo (Pushkin)
- Great Palace at Pavlovsk
- Leningrad Siege Memorial

We depart St Petersburg to visit two grand summer palaces outside St Petersburg – the Catherine Palace by the architect Rastrelli at Tsarskoye Selo, and the Neo-Classical Great Palace at Pavlovsk. Pushkin was first called Tsarskoye Selo (Royal Village) when Catherine, wife of Peter the Great, to whom the site was given,

was elevated to the position of tsaritsa. The present Baroque Catherine Palace and its magnificent park were built for Empress Elizabeth (1741-1761) and Catherine II (1762-1796). Bartolomeo Francesco Rastrelli designed the sections constructed between 1752 and 1756; the interior was much altered by the Scottish architect Charles Cameron. We shall tour the magnificent complex before taking time at leisure to wander through the extensive park, with its Great Pond, Chinese Theatre, Chinese Pavilion, Chinese Village, Turkish Bath, and other wonderful examples of 18th-century park monuments.

In the afternoon we shall visit the Grand Palace at Pavlovsk, built by Charles Cameron between 1782 and 1786 for Catherine the Great, who presented it to her son Grand Duke Paul (Pavel, hence Pavlovsk, 'Pavel's place'). Cameron designed the palace in the classical style, and also laid out its extensive park, a splendid example of 18th and 19th-century landscape architecture.

On the outskirts of St Petersburg we pass the moving memorial to the Siege of Leningrad during World War II, when the Germans invested the city for nine hundred days. Thousands died in this most dreadful episode of the war, and of Russian history. (Overnight St Petersburg) BL

Day 16: Monday 26 June, St Petersburg

- Fabergé Museum
- Yusupov Palace
- Farewell Dinner at The Russian Empire Restaurant

This morning we visit the Fabergé Museum, a private collection of masterpieces by jeweller Carl Fabergé and his studio. Housed in the beautifully restored Shuvalov Palace, the well-presented displays include the famous Easter eggs, enamel work and luxurious pieces of jewellery.

We then drive we drive to the Yusupov Palace, which occupies a quiet stretch of the Moika River. The palace has some of the finest, most sumptuous interiors of the city. It was once the residence of the wealthy and respected Yusupov family and saw one of the most dramatic episodes in Russia's history, the murder of Grigory Rasputin. In 1916 a group of the city's aristocratic élite led by Prince Felix Yusupov conspired to kill the one man who they felt threatened the stability of an already war-torn Russian Empire. Grigory Rasputin, a peasant and self-proclaimed holy man, had gradually won favour with the Tsar's family through his alleged supernatural powers. He had convinced them of his ability to cure the tsarevich Alexei from the numerous health issues caused by haemophilia. His control over the decisions of Nicholas II and his family allowed him potentially to manipulate the Tsar and to threaten the aristocracy's power.

The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. You may choose to return to the Hermitage to explore further this magnificent palace and art collection. Alternatively, you may choose to stroll along the Nevsky Prospekt, enjoying the commercial bustle of this reinvigorated city. In the evening we meet up for a farewell dinner at The Russian Empire restaurant, one of the finest dining establishments in the city. (Overnight St Petersburg) BD

Day 17: Tuesday 27 June, Depart St Petersburg

- Airport transfer for participants departing on the ASA 'designated' flight

Our tour ends in St Petersburg. Passengers travelling on the ASA 'designated' flight will transfer to the airport for the return flight to Australia. Alternatively, you may wish to extend your stay in Russia. Please contact ASA if you require further assistance. B

Accommodation

ASA has selected 3 to 5-star hotels that are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom.

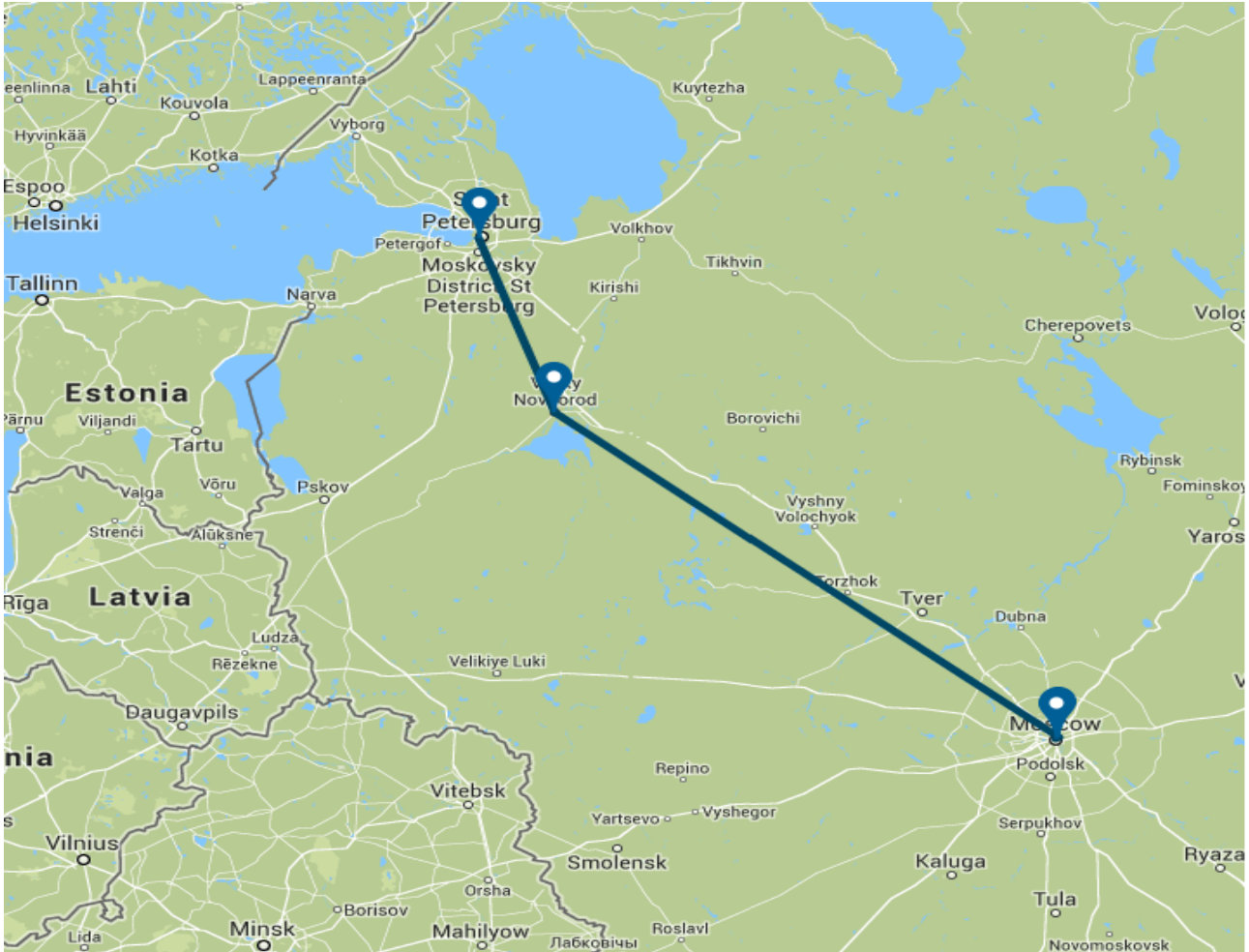
- Moscow (8 nights): 5-star Hotel Peter the First – located in the heart of the city, a short walk from the Kremlin, Red Square, Bolshoi Theatre and St Basil's Cathedral. www.en.hotel-peter1.ru
- Novgorod (2 nights): 3-star Volhov Hotel – a basic Soviet era hotel with an excellent location not far from the Novgorod Kremlin. www.hotel-volkhov.ru
- St Petersburg (6 nights): 4-star Ambassador Hotel – centrally located close to museums, theatres, restaurants and shops. www.en.ambassador-hotel.ru

Note: *Hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double/twin room for single occupancy room throughout the tour. The number of rooms available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$TBA Early-Bird Special: Book before 31 July 2022

AUD \$TBA Land Content Only

AUD \$TBA Single Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class fares please contact ASA for further information.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in 3 to 5-star twin-share rooms with private facilities
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Business Class Rail travel from Moscow-Chudovo
- Meals indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Moskva River Cruise (Day 4); Hydrofoil Peterhof – St Petersburg (Day 11); Canal & River Cruise St Petersburg (Day 12)
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on ASA's 'designated' flights
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports or train stations)
- Lecture & site visit program conducted by local guides & ASA's tour leader
- Tour handbook
- Tickets to 2 performances (usually 1 in Moscow, 1 in St Petersburg)
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals.

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Moscow, St Petersburg-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Luggage in excess of 20 kg (44 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Russian visa.



Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless, all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 17-day cultural tour of Russia involves:

- Extensive walking and use of the metro in Moscow
- Long periods of standing, walking and stair-climbing in very large museums and palaces which do not have elevators (eg Hermitage). There is limited seating opportunities in museums and art galleries
- A 5 and half hour sustained visit to Moscow's Kremlin
- 3 to 5-star hotels with two hotel changes
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Porterage includes 1 piece of luggage per person
- Business Class train travel between Moscow and Chudovo (en route to Novgorod) where you must carry your hand luggage up and down stairs and lift it on/off the train
- Some late lunches (after 2pm)
- Moderate intercity coach travel
- River & canal cruises in Moscow & St Petersburg

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present

any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Please note: it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers see www.smartraveller.gov.au

Visas

Australian passport holders require a visa to visit Russia. The process of applying for a Russian tourist visa is complex as it requires documentation from each hotel for each group member. When applying for a visa, travellers must have proof of valid travel insurance including cover for emergency medical evacuation. An ASA travel consultant will be happy to assist you with your visa application.

Booking Conditions

Making a Tentative Reservation before the tour price has been published

ASA INTENTION TO TRAVEL APPLICATION FORM

Some ASA tours fill almost immediately. Don't miss out! You can register your 'Intention to Travel' by completing this application and returning this to ASA with a AUD \$100.00 per person deposit. Once the tour price has been published, the itinerary and ASA Reservation Application Form will be sent to you. From the time you receive the itinerary you will have two weeks to either:

- Send us a completed ASA Reservation Application Form together with an additional deposit of AUD \$400.00 per person. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation. At this time your deposit of AUD \$500.00 is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

Or

- CANCEL your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD \$100.00 per person deposit, less a \$33.00 service fee (including GST).

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the

whole tour. ASA's ability to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs, your health and safety and the health and safety of other tour members, is of paramount importance to us. For this reason the ASA Reservation Application includes a Medical Information section. As a general guideline, you must be able to accomplish each of these activities without assistance or support:-

- walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions
- walk confidently on and over uneven surfaces
- climb at least 3 flights of stairs
- embark and disembark from ferries, buses and trains
- walk up and down steep slopes
- walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15-20 minutes
- organise, manage and carry your own luggage
- follow and remember tour instructions
- meet punctually at designated times and places
- administer your own medication



Intention to Travel Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Booking before the tour price is available

Some ASA tours fill almost immediately. Don't miss out! You can register your 'Intention to Travel' by completing this application and returning this to ASA with a AUD\$100.00 per person deposit. Once the tour price has been published, the itinerary and ASA Reservation Application Form will be sent to you. From the time you receive the itinerary you will have two weeks to either:

- Send us a completed ASA Reservation Application Form together with an additional deposit of AUD\$400.00 per person. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation. At this time your deposit of \$500.00 AUD is subject to the tour's Booking Conditions.

OR

- Cancel your Intention to Travel in writing. ASA will refund your AUD\$100.00 per person deposit, less a \$33.00 service fee (including GST).

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr Mrs Ms Miss Dr Other _____

FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____

MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____

TEL. (AH) () _____ TEL. (BH) () _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____ GENDER Male Female

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: a twin-bedded room a double-bedded room a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling: on my own with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish poultry red meat dairy products

eggs pork nuts

Other _____

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence Postal Mail Email Address _____

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour.

ASA's ability to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs, your health and safety and the health and safety of other tour members, is of paramount importance to us. For this reason the ASA Reservation Application includes a Medical Information section.

As a general guideline, you must be able to accomplish each of these activities *without assistance or support*:-

- walk & stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions
- walk confidently on and over uneven surfaces
- climb at least 3 flights of stairs
- embark and disembark from ferries, buses and trains
- walk up and down steep slopes
- walk at a steady pace and no less than 1 km every 15 - 20 minutes
- organise, manage and carry your own luggage
- follow and remember tour instructions
- meet punctually at designated times and places
- administer your own medication.

Applicant's Signature _____

Dated _____

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1

Name of Traveller 2

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$

 (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

Payment by (please indicate): Cheque Direct Debit (see below) Credit Card (see below)

International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank ANZ
Branch 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
Swift Code ANZBAU3M
BSB 013-423
Account No 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No.

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my: Mastercard Visa American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date

Security Code (CVC)

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)

Cardholders Name

Cardholders Billing Address

Postcode

State

Country

Phone

Email

Cardholders Signature
