



## Exeter International Three-Day Shore Program

A Private, Historical and Cultural Tour of St. Petersburg  
with your personal English-speaking guide

Featuring Exeter International Extraordinary Experience  
Amber Room Workshops of Catherine Palace

*(The following is just a suggested daily tour schedule. Sightseeing may be changed to reflect your exact arrival and departure dates, as well as your specific interests.)*

### Day 1

#### *St. Petersburg*

This morning after your cruise ship clears customs, your private driver and guide will meet you just outside your cruise ship. To get you acquainted with Peter the Great's "Venice of the North," you should start with an overview city tour that will start where all tours should begin - the Peter Paul Fortress: the birthplace of St. Petersburg.



After walking through the many gates and across the bridges and moats, you can begin to feel the late 18<sup>th</sup> century era that required such fortification. As Peter's original outpost against the Swedes, St. Petersburg was born from this fortress and its historical significance is felt to this day by the presence of every Romanov tomb from Peter the Great.

Next, you will also pass by the famous Bronze Horseman statue of Peter the Great, the Strelka (the spit in the center of the Neva River, overlooking the Winter Palace, the first stock exchange, Peter Paul Fortress and dozens of stately palaces) and of course, the grand Nevsky Prospect, the main avenue of the city.

Today you will have the pleasure of visiting the Hermitage Museum, a site built during a time when Catherine the Great commissioned whole buildings to house an ever growing collection of the world's finest art. The former Winter Palace now spans just about every artistic period from Greek and Roman collections to Matisse. This museum holds the largest collection of art in the world. Your guide will escort you through the entire museum, from its collection of Rubens to its da Vincis and beyond! Be sure not to miss the recently unveiled collection of French Impressionists that was thought lost after WWII.

This afternoon, your guide will take you into the stately St. Isaac's Cathedral. Its malachite and lapis lazuli columns are not to be missed! For those with strong legs, you can climb to the top of the cathedral's dome for the finest views over St. Petersburg's historic neighborhood. Also this afternoon, your guide will take you into the recently renovated Grand Choral Synagogue of St. Petersburg. This historic temple was completely renovated in 2001 and is now in its original condition.

**Exeter Services: Vehicle, Driver, and Guide**

## Day 2

### *St. Petersburg*

This morning your driver and guide will take you out into the Russian countryside to see two of the city's most elegant and beautiful palaces- Catherine Palace (formerly Pushkin) and Pavlovsk, in the nearby village of the same name.

Your first stop will be Pavlovsk Palace, built by Paul I and his wife Maria. This is the understated summer palace of the tsars. Started by Catherine the Great's favorite architect, Cameron (a Scot), the palace was later finished by Paul's and his wife Maria's preferred architect, Andrei Voronykhin- a Russian serf who later became one of the greatest architects ever to work in Russia. *(For those interested in Russian history, with a focus on architecture and design, you won't want to miss reading Suzanne Massie's Pavlovsk: the Life of a Russian Palace.)*



You may wish to have lunch today in the village of Pavlovsk at the restaurant, Podvorye. This charming restaurant is made of wood and features lively folk entertainment at lunch. Lunch cost is not included in your tour.

Afterwards, visit Catherine Palace and its fabled Amber Room. This palace was started by Catherine I (Peter the Great's second wife and not Catherine the Great) and it bears her name. The baroque design is truly a masterpiece and this palace, with its striking blue and gold exterior, is one of the symbols of St. Petersburg. Russian Baroque means gilded statues, gilded mirrors and gilded wall, ceilings and picture frames! The gardens are laid out in the highly stylized French style and are definitely worth a stroll.

### ***Exeter International Extraordinary Experience***

While visiting Catherine Palace, you will be invited into the Amber Room workshops where craftsmen rebuilt the famous amber panels lost in World War II. This tour is by appointment only and cannot be moved to another time or day.

**Exeter Services: Vehicle, Driver & Guide**

### **Day 3**

#### *St. Petersburg*

This morning your guide will meet you at your ship at 9:00AM. Today you may enjoy heading out to Peter the Great's summer palace, Peterhof, to see first-hand the palace's countless fountains and gardens.



Peterhof Palace (or Petrodvorets in Russian) is often called the Russian Versailles due to the prominence of the gardens and fountains. The view from the palace through the grand colonnade of fountains to the Baltic Sea is one of the true masterpieces of Russian artistry. There are many parts to the palace complex and to view them all, you will need to devote most of the day. If you arrive by hydrofoil (as Imperial guests usually arrived!), you will first enter the lower gardens and will be able to see Peter the Great's favorite buildings. It is also in this area that you will see Peterhof's most enchanting treat- the trick fountains of the

gardens. Be careful where you step in this area- you could be hit by a surprise stream of water as you stroll!

When you walk to the upper gardens, you can enter the Grand Palace of Peterhof. This stately palace overlooks the gardens and smaller palaces, as well as the Baltic Sea. The ornate baroque interiors of the Grand Palace will no doubt amaze you and no one soon forgets the unique Chinese Room filled with lacquer and ancient silk.

Later you may want to visit the Grottos of Peterhof. The tremendous variety of fountains is one of the principal features of Peterhof, where their extravagance and playfulness indicate the atmosphere of early 18<sup>th</sup> century Russia. You will journey underneath the fountains and learn of their remarkable engineering and history.

When the weather is nice in the summertime, a special treat is to take the express hydrofoil back into the city. The one-hour ride takes you out of the city traffic and into the Baltic Sea! Your guide will go with you on the hydrofoil and your driver will meet you at your destination. *Cost of hydrofoil is included in your tour.*

**Exeter Services:    Vehicle, Driver & Guide**

**Prices:**

Number of Travelers	Per Person Price
2	\$1,975
3-4	\$1,575
5-9	\$1,175
10-15	\$775

- All prices are per person.
- Seabourn, Silversea, Sea Cloud and other yacht-size ships dock right in the heart of the city, near St. Isaacs Cathedral. All other vessels dock approximately 30 – 45 minutes from the city center. This large-ship port requires a special access fee for our drivers. Guests using a car or minivan will have a fee of \$300 added to the total booking cost. Guests using a minibus or motorcoach will have a fee of \$450 added to the total booking cost. This is not a per person cost.
- Prices are subject to change based on customization for each traveler and on port dates.
- A “blanket” visa is included in all Exeter shore tour programs. Individual visas, if desired, are not included, but can be arranged.

*Your itinerary includes...*

**Services**

Private vehicle and driver at your service as described. Private English-speaking guide at your service as described. A full-day is generally eight hours in duration. A half-day is generally three and a half hours in duration.

**Transfers**

All transfers to and from your cruise ship are included in the program.

**Guides**

Hand chosen for their knowledge on local history, art & architecture. Guides are at your disposal between as noted in your itinerary. Guides may assist you with restaurant reservations and purchasing of additional theater tickets at your request.

**Theater**

None Included. Theater schedules will be provided should you wish to purchase tickets. The best theater performances are in May, June and most of July. Only tourist-class performances are available in August and early-September.

**Tickets**

All entrance tickets as described in the program.

## **Exeter International Independent Shore Programs**

### *RUSSIAN VISAS*

Exeter International is able to take guests ashore in St. Petersburg without a Russian Visa as long as the Russian government's special conditions are met. This is only possible if your shore program is booked at least 30 days in advance and if all of your passport details are submitted by that time. You will only be allowed to leave your ship in the company of an Exeter driver or guide. Should you wish to have the ultimate flexibility to dine out or explore on your own, we recommend obtaining a Russian Visa. Please inquire for details.

### *SIGHTSEEING*

Sightseeing arrangements have been made with your special interests in mind. Your drivers and guides are at your disposal for full or half-day sightseeing programs as indicated in the itinerary. Within those time and mileage guidelines, your driver and guide are at your disposal, so you are free to modify your program as you please. Should you require additional time or mileage, the costs will be quoted on request and may be paid for locally in the local currency or U.S. Dollars.

Every effort has been made to confirm that scheduled sightseeing venues will be open at the time you plan to visit them. However, individual estates, museums, gardens and other points of interest can change their hours of operation at short notice. In the event that a particular attraction is closed on the day or time of your visit, your guide will offer alternative arrangements or rearrange your sightseeing to accommodate these unexpected events.

### *OPTIONAL EXPENSES*

Charges for extra meals, transport, sightseeing services or other optional additions to your established itinerary are your responsibility and must be paid locally in the local currency.

### *GRATUITIES*

Gratuities are not included in your tour price. Your copy of "Travel Tips" contains suggested gratuity guidelines for your consideration. Gratuities may be extended in the local currency, U.S. Dollars or Euro.

### *DINING WITH YOUR GUIDE*

On days when dinner and lunch costs have not been included in your itinerary (or in your tour cost), you may, at your discretion, choose to invite your guide to dine with your party. You are under no obligation to do so but, if you do extend such an invitation, the guide is your guest and you will be responsible for the cost of his/her meal.

## ***BOOKING CONDITIONS***

### *PAYMENT*

Exeter International must receive a deposit of 10% of the total program cost or \$250 per person, whichever is greater, before reservations for your independent travel program can be initiated. The balance of payment is due 60 days prior to departure. *No reservations are made on your behalf until this deposit has been received.* Availability and pricing is subject to change until this deposit is received. **All deposits are nonrefundable.**

### *CANCELLATION*

Written cancellations received less than 60 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit of tour cost

- 59-14 days prior to departure, 50% of total tour cost
- 14 or less days prior to departure, 100% of tour cost.

### *REFUNDS*

We regret that refunds cannot be issued for arrangements confirmed on your itinerary but unused once your tour has begun.

### *INSURANCE*

Exeter International strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance to protect your investment. You will find insurance costs noted on your invoice and insurance coverage information in your original booking packet.

All Exeter International U.S. Resident guests receive \$50,000 per person in emergency medical coverage and emergency medical evacuation insurance.

### *PRICES AND ARRANGEMENTS*

Once an itinerary is finalized and final payment has been made, a \$100 revision fee will be charged if the itinerary is changed.

The tour price includes planning, handling and operational charges. Rates are quoted in US Dollars on the current rate of exchange and tariff as of 2012. Exeter International reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. Devaluation of a foreign currency will be weighed against any tariff increases imposed. Exeter International is under no obligation to give breakdown costs involved in any Travel Program.

*All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.  
Prices are subject to change if necessary until paid in full.*