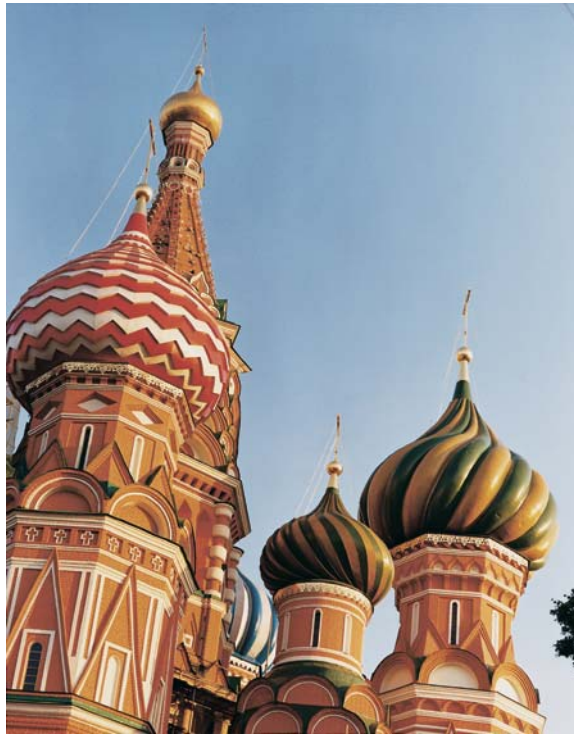




## The Ultimate Russian Experience for Cruise Ship Passengers



A VIP pre-cruise, private tour of Moscow  
followed by a personal shore excursion in St. Petersburg

### Featuring Exeter International Extraordinary Experiences

Private Tour of Stalin's Bunker  
Amber Room Workshops of Catherine Palace  
Off-Limits Hermitage – the Storage Chamber  
The Private Maltese Chapel of Vorontsov Palace

*(The following is just a suggested daily tour schedule. You will have complete control over your daily schedule and may change your plans at any time by simply telling your guide.)*

## Day 1

### *Moscow*

Midday arrival into Moscow where you will be met by your private guide and driver. They will be waiting for you just outside of Customs, after you pick up your luggage.

Transfer to the stunning Ritz Carlton in the center of the city. On the way to your hotel, you will pass by sights of historical significance, including Tverskaya Street. Check in at your hotel.



After a break to freshen up and drop of your luggage (hotel check-in is 3:00PM or later), your guide and driver will take you on an overview city tour, including Sparrow Hills for the best views over the city, the Russian White House, Arbat Street, the Moskva River and of course, Red Square! If time allows, we recommend a stop at the cemetery of Novodevichy Convent. The cemetery houses the graves of many famous Russians, from cultural figures to political and military dignitaries. Each tombstone is wrought with symbolism and makes for a very interesting and worthwhile visit.

**Exeter Services:** Transfer; Half-Day Vehicle, Driver & Guide  
**Hotel:** Ritz Carlton

## Day 2

### *Moscow*

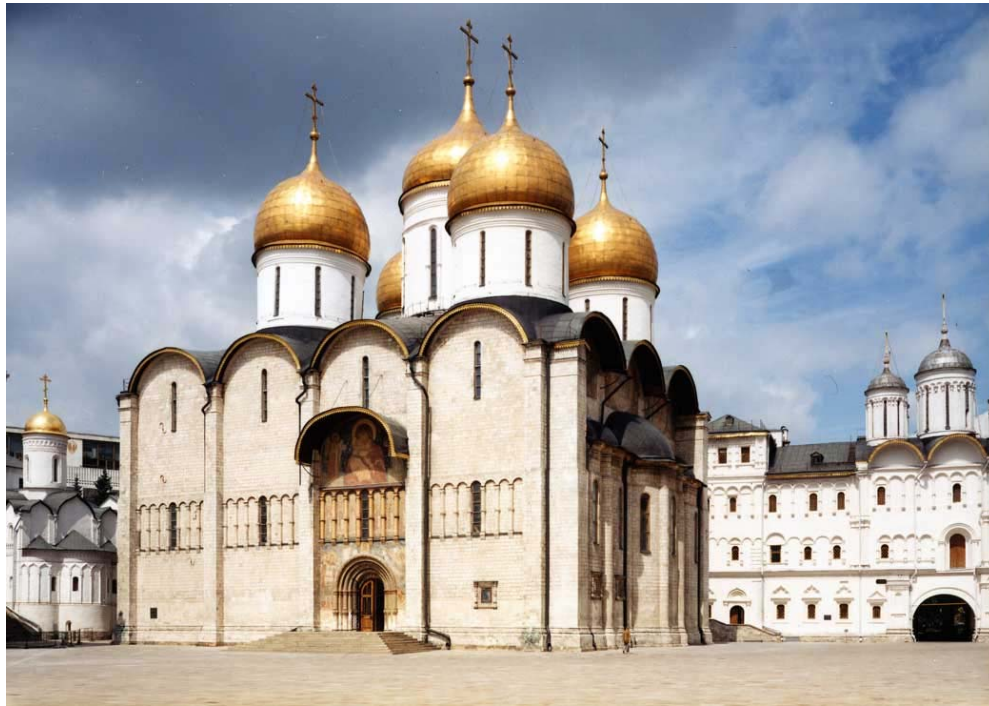
This morning your guide will take you on a walking tour of the Kitay Gorod district. The very center of Moscow and indeed, of Russia. The neighborhood was a fortress behind a fence ("kitai" meaning "Strong"). This ancient district is the very heart of Moscow's downtown. You will see the architecture dating back to the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries in the many churches that line the narrow streets of this picturesque district.

Your guide will take you on a walking tour of Red Square and G.U.M. Department Store. Be sure not to miss the newly rebuilt church and Imperial Gates at the south end of Red Square- they were both destroyed under Stalin and only recently have been rebuilt in their original splendor. Your guide will also show you the stunning St. Basil's Cathedral. This magnificent church-museum was commissioned by Ivan the Terrible and was completed in 1561. Rumor has it that Ivan had the architect blinded so he would never be able to design anything as exquisite again! The cathedral is at its most awesome when viewed from the outside and your guide will be happy to explain its history and the significance of each of the domes, each of which contains a separate chapel.



Today, your guide will take you into the Kremlin and through its expansive grounds. Here you will see the largest bell in the world – as well as the largest canon. Neither were ever used due to their enormous size!

Also on the grounds of the Kremlin are three very important churches and your guide will take you through all that are of interest. We suggest you don't miss the Assumption Cathedral, where all Russian tsars were crowned.



Later, your guide will take you to the famed Armory Museum, including its vast collection of Imperial Russian artwork. You will have the opportunity to see the Kremlin's unique and intimate collection of Imperial Faberge Easter Eggs. Also in the Armory are many of the most important Imperial thrones and crowns, including the most historic, Cap of Monomachus.

Included in your Kremlin visit today is entry into the Diamond Vaults. Admission to these extraordinary rooms is by special appointment with the Kremlin and your guide is not allowed to enter with you. Your entry to the Diamond Vaults is with a pre-set group of other visitors, and you will have approximately twenty minutes to browse these rooms on your own. You will see Catherine the Great's scepter with its famous Orlov Diamond and one of the largest collections of diamonds and gem stones in the world!

***Optional Private Diamond Vault Visit Upgrade:***

To make your experience in the Diamond Vaults even more extraordinary, you can choose to have a private visit with your guide for approximately \$500 additional per group of six or less. You can then learn the detailed history behind these jewels and obtain an insight into Russia's imperial history with your private guide.

**Exeter Services:**     **Guide only today (no car services)**  
**Hotel:**                 **Ritz Carlton**

## Day 3

### *Moscow*

This morning your driver and guide will meet you for a full day exploration.

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

Step back into the Soviet-era today with a trip to Stalin's original bunker, preserved just as it was during Stalin's time. You will experience the opportunity to go inside the bunker where Stalin was rumored to stay! Your onsite expert will give you a piercing insight into Soviet Russia, relating the history of the bunker's origination and telling you stories about Stalin's life and World War II.

*Special Note:* If you are visiting on Saturday or Sunday, you may also stop at Izmailovsky Park for the weekend "Bazaar": the best shopping in Russia! The park is only open on the weekend and is by far the best place to stock up on matryoshka dolls and lacquered Palekh boxes. Your guide will give you a complete lesson in advanced Russian shopping techniques.

Today you may have the opportunity to experience the fascinating interiors of the Moscow Metro stations, ornately decorated with beautiful paintings, carvings and chandeliers! The Moscow Metro was created as complex of monumental structures featuring designs of the very best Soviet architects. The stations, most built between 1930 and 1960 are underground palaces, featuring exquisite frescoes, statues, mosaics and stained glass. Each station has its own special theme- our favorite is Teatralnaya. Today this massive public transportation system is one of the largest in the world, carrying over 9 million passengers per day (twice as many as London or Paris!). Your guide will be delighted to show you as many stations as you like.

If time allows, you may also wish to visit the Tretyakov Gallery, situated in the former home of Pavel Tretyakov. Your guide will take you through the museum, which houses only Russian artists - from Andrei Rublev's icons to famous 20<sup>th</sup> Century Russian painters. Here you can see a timeline progression of Russian icons starting from the 16<sup>th</sup> century through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Each century of icons is arranged in separate halls to convey a clear insight into the development of Russian Icon painting.

After your tour of the gallery, your guide has arranged for a visit to the adjoining private chapel of the Tretyakov family, the Church of St. Nicholas. This small, intimate chapel is where the entire family of the wealthy Russian merchant and art collector would attend private services. Here, you will have the chance to see Russia's most venerated icon, *The Theotokos of Vladimir*. This icon was a gift of the patriarch of Constantinople to the Grand Prince of Russia in 1132.

**Exeter Services:**    **Vehicle, Driver & Guide**  
**Hotel:**                **Ritz Carlton**

## Day 4

### *Moscow-Cruise Ship Embarkation City*

Morning check-out of hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight to your Baltic cruise ship embarkation city. No airfare is included.

**Exeter Services: Transfer only in Moscow**

## *Cruise in the Baltic Sea*

## 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's visit to the Hermitage Museum will take you to another world; 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.



***Exeter International Extraordinary Experience: Off-Limits at the Hermitage***

After your visit to the Hermitage, you will have the rare opportunity to enter and view the Hermitage Museum's vast storage chambers. Located in a secure, closed storage facility 40 minutes from the Hermitage, these chambers hold a forgotten gamut of treasures ranging from the Tsar's kitchen relics and world-class works of art, to royal carriages, original palace furniture, and imperial wardrobes. *Please note that these facilities are closed to the public and are visited on an appointment-only basis. Appointments cannot be rescheduled.*

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



## *Evening*

Performance at the theater (schedule permitting). Tonight's theater performance will be in one of St. Petersburg's famous theaters- the finest performance available on this night in St. Petersburg. The theater itself is a masterpiece; to experience the ballet, symphony or opera there is beyond compare. Transfer back to the ship after the performance.

## 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 stands in stark contrast to Pavlovsk and its classical layout. 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 (as apposed to the more free-form English gardens at Pavlovsk).



### ***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 you may enjoy heading out to Peter the Great's summer palace, Peterhof, to see first-hand the palace's countless fountains and gardens. When the weather is nice in the summertime, a special treat is to take the express hydrofoil out to Peterhof. 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 out at the palace. Cost of hydrofoil is included in your tour.



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-or-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. You will, no doubt, be amazed by the ornate baroque interiors of the Grand Palace 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.

**Optional Excursion: Exeter Charity**  
***Exeter International Extraordinary Experience***

Today you have an exclusive visit to The Maltese Chapel, part of the Vorontsov Palace. Vorontsov Palace was built by Rastrelli between 1749-57. The Chapel was added by Quarenghi between 1798-1800 for Tsar Paul I, Grand Master of the Knights of Malta. This continued a relationship with the order that had been established by Peter I.

Since 1810 the Palace has been home to Russia's most important military academy, turning out Russia's military elite. Originally the Corps des Paiges, and re-named the Suvorov Military Academy, (after Marshal Suvorov, one of Russia's greatest commanders) in 1943. Your visit will be led personally by the chaplain of the church. *Note: Cadets are in residence September – May.*

Exeter International supports the Children's Hospice charity, founded in 2003 by the Chaplain responsible for the Chapel. The charity provides relief and hope for terminally ill children and their parents. A fixed donation will be charged to assist with the charity's work on your behalf. The Academy and Chapel are strictly closed to the public.

Return to your ship in good time for your departure from St. Petersburg.

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

## Prices:

Number of Travelers	Per Person Price based on double occupancy
2	\$5,900
4	\$4,025
6	\$3,500
8	\$3,175

- For large ships (i.e. 400 passengers or more), there will be a permit fee of +\$300 (Car or Minivan) or \$450 (Minibus or Motorcoach) added to the booking (not a per person cost).
- Prices are subject to change based on customization for each traveler and on actual travel dates.
- All museums in Russia have unique opening and closing dates and times. The order of your sightseeing may be affected by your dates in each city.

Optional Exeter Charity Extraordinary Experience to the Suvorov Military Academy and Maltese Chapel: \$1,000 donation to the Children's Hospice of St. Petersburg. [This donation is not included in the tour cost and is additional.](#)

*Note: Pricing is based upon a Friday arrival into Moscow. Please inquire for pricing on other days of the week.*

## Your itinerary includes...

## Accommodations

### Moscow

**Superior Room for Three (3) nights** at the Ritz Carlton; Tax (18%) and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

The façade of this new 11 storey building is reminiscent of the Russian classic époque and fits well into the historical setting of the Tverskaya Street and will offer a new standard of luxury and service for visitors to Moscow. Peter Silling has recreated a classic interior reflecting the rich imperial style for which Russia was well known during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The hotel is centrally located and the striking architecture of the Roof Top Lounge and terrace offers panoramic views of Red Square and the Kremlin and the contemporary structure of glass and steel promises a day light environment all year long.

The hotel features the largest rooms in the city decorated with red cherry wood and marble from Portugal and 1800 antiques that capture the feel of that era.

Rooms are tastefully designed and spacious, featuring the latest in technology. Each room's bathroom is opulent, offering a separate rainfall shower, separate toilet and bidet, two sinks and a marble bath.

**Superior Rooms:** These rooms are the starting category and feature over 450 square feet of space. The larger of these rooms feature up to 550 square feet in size – the largest standard guest rooms in Moscow. These rooms can either face a neighboring building or the quiet inner atrium. Bedding is either one king or two double beds.

*Upgraded rooms and suites are available. Please inquire for rates and availability.*

## **St. Petersburg**

**No hotel is included as you will be touring from your cruise ship.**

No meals included, other than breakfast as described above. ***Your guides will recommend restaurants that fit your exact needs daily.***

## **Services**

Private vehicle and driver at your service as described. A day with your vehicle is generally 10:00 AM-6:00 PM. English-speaking guide from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM as described. A half-day is 3.5 hours.

## **Transfers**

All transfers to and from airports are included in the program. Evening (theater) transfers are not included, unless specifically noted.

## **Guides**

Hand chosen for their knowledge on local history, art & architecture. Guides are at your disposal between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM daily. Guides may assist you with restaurant reservations and purchasing of additional theater tickets at your request.

## **Theater**

The best seats to the best performances on the dates of your visit, as described in the program. Theater transfers are not included in your program, unless specifically noted.

## **Tickets**

All museum tickets and theater tickets as described in the program.

## **Airfare**

None Included.

## **Russian Visas**

A double entry Russian visa is required for this itinerary.

## **Exeter International Independent Travel Programs**

### *BAGGAGE*

The vehicles reserved for your itinerary can accommodate up to two medium-sized suitcases per person. If you intend to travel with additional luggage, please advise your travel consultant so appropriate arrangements may be made.

### *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 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.

### *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 Small Group or Individual Travel Program.

*All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.  
Prices are subject to change if necessary until paid in full.  
Visa fees are not included in the program.*

### **Exeter International**

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