



Russian Musical Odyssey On board The Golden Eagle

A Private, Historical and Cultural Tour from
Moscow to St. Petersburg with your English-speaking guides

Day 1, Moscow

Arrival in Moscow, where you will be met and transferred to the five-star Marriott Royal Aurora hotel (or similar), located in the heart of the city for a one night stay. This evening will be spent enjoying an opera or ballet performance at the world-famous Bolshoi Theatre. The Bolshoi Ballet and Bolshoi Opera are amongst the oldest and greatest ballet and opera companies of the world with a history dating back to the late 18th century and producer of some of Russia's most famous ballets stars, including Maya Plisetskaya.

Day 2, Moscow

Your city tour this morning of Moscow principally takes you to Red Square, an iconic symbol of Russia's former military and political might. Here you see an eclectic mix of fascinating architecture, such as the ornate St Basil's Cathedral with its magnificent onion-domed spires, the grandeur of The Kremlin and the sombre and evocative site of Lenin's tomb. Following lunch in the Godunov Restaurant, this afternoon as part of our *Freedom of Choice* touring program, you can select to visit the Tretyakov Gallery (National Museum of Russian Fine Art) or return to the Bolshoi for a historical tour of the theatre. This evening is at leisure, but we can arrange tickets for you (at an extra charge) to see a further performance at the Bolshoi or at another theatre in Moscow. Late evening you board the *Golden Eagle*, with time to settle into your cabin as you begin your rail journey overnight to Vladimir.

Day 3, Vladimir and Suzdal

Today you visit the historic city of Vladimir. Founded in 990, it is one of Russia's oldest communities with an architectural wealth and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your tour takes in Uspensky Cathedral, built between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. It is considered one of the most important and beautiful of Russian cathedrals, where many of the prominent Russian Tsars were crowned. Your excursion moves on to the town of Suzdal, one of Russia's most perfectly preserved walled cities dating back to 1024. Here you visit the atmospheric St. Euthymius Monastery to witness an enchanting choral performance by a male choir.

Day 4, Kiev, Ukraine

Your tour of this ancient city and capital of the Ukraine includes the beautifully restored Monastery of Caves, Lavra Complex which has the highest bell tower in the former USSR and together with Saint Sophia's Cathedral, which we also visit, is inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You also visit the huge Mother Ukraine World War Two Monument and Museum and take a stroll along the main Khreshchatyk Street which leads onto Independence Square. This evening you enjoy a performance in the spectacular Viennese neo-renaissance building of the Ukrainian National Opera and Ballet Theatre.

Day 5, Odessa

Breakfast finds you heading south to the Black Sea, where you'll arrive in the elegant city of Odessa at lunchtime with its tree-lined Primorsky Boulevard featuring street cafes on the embankment and the Potemkin Steps. This Black Sea city was immortalized in Einstein's 1925 film 'Battleship Potemkin'. Nearby is the impressive National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre, which first opened in 1810 and recently renovated and where you visit for tonight's performance.

Day 6, Onboard

Enjoy a more leisurely pace today as you travel through Ukraine and Russia towards St Petersburg, your final destination. You might like to attend one of our interesting lectures on Russian Classical music that will take place in the Bar Car or simply relax and watch the passing scenery from your cabin.

Day 7, St Petersburg

After breakfast the *Golden Eagle* will arrive in Pushkin on the outskirts of St Petersburg, where you will detrain. The train will continue the 30 kms to St Petersburg with your luggage which will be transferred directly to your room in the five-star Kempinski Moika 22 Hotel, near Palace Square, where you will be staying for two nights. In Pushkin, you visit Catherine the Great's rococo Summer Palace, including the world-famous Amber Room. This afternoon and evening is at leisure, but we can arrange a performance for you (*extra charge*) at the Mariinsky or another theatre of your choice in St Petersburg.

Day 8, St Petersburg

The Imperial Capital City of St Petersburg is one of the world's most stunning cities and is crowded with splendid palaces, impressive historical monuments, wide boulevards, beautiful bridges and is renowned as the Ballet Capital of the World. Today, as part of your *Freedom of Choice* touring program, you will have a choice of how to spend time in central St. Petersburg. Perhaps you would like to visit the Hermitage Museum, St Isaac's Cathedral, Sheremetev Palace, which houses a large collection of musical instruments or visit the influential Vaganova Choreographic School, the associate school of the Mariinsky Theatre and the world's finest ballet school, where Russia's former and future dancers are trained.

Tonight you will visit the Mariinsky Theatre for what will be an outstanding production of ballet or opera. Opened in 1860, the Mariinsky Theatre became the finest music theatre of late 19th century Russia, where many of the stage masterpieces of Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky and Rimsky-Korsakov received their premieres. Since 1988, under the artistic

leadership of Valery Gergiev, the theatre has entered a new era of artistic excellence and creativity and tonight's performance will, no doubt, be an unforgettable evening.

Day 9, St Petersburg

Following breakfast, you will be transferred to St Petersburg Airport to begin your journey home.

Price:

Silver Class

\$8,695.00 per person, double occupancy.
\$12,495.00 single occupancy

Gold Class

\$10,695.00 per person, double occupancy
\$14,995.00 single occupancy.

Imperial Suite

\$16,695.00 per person, double occupancy
\$23,395.00 single occupancy.

Prices are per person for the fully inclusive tour Moscow to St. Petersburg. Air-fare is not included.

Prices are subject to change until deposit is received.

Russian Muscial Odyssey Tour: Moscow to St. Petersburg (2012)

February 8 - 16

November 28 – December 06

General Information:

A full passport with at least six months validity from the start of the tour is required along with a double entry Russian Visa.

Subject to bookings, this tour may also be operated in the reverse direction on the same dates or cancelled.

A deposit in the amount of \$2,500.00 per person is required on all Silver Class cabins, a deposit in the amount of \$3,000.00 per person is required on all Gold Class bookings and a deposit in the amount of \$5,000.00 per person is required on all Imperial Suite bookings.

The Train Tour Price Includes:

Accommodations:

Moscow

One (1) night at the Marriott Aurora or similar; Buffet Breakfast included daily.

Golden Eagle

One Silver or Gold Class Cabin or Imperial Suite for Five (5) nights on board the Golden Eagle. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included daily.

St. Petersburg

Two (2) nights at the Kempinski Moika 22 or similar; Buffet Breakfast included daily.

Imperial Suites:

The Imperial Suites are the most spacious cabins available onboard the *Golden Eagle* measuring 120 square feet and benefit from their own large and luxurious fixed double bed as well as a dedicated lounge area with dressing table. Suite facilities include private en-suite facilities with power shower and underfloor heating, individual air-conditioning, wardrobe, DVD/CD player with LCD screen and two large picture windows. Guests will also benefit from a dedicated butler service, a selection of complimentary drinks from the premium bar list, included laundry service and room upgrades to the next available category at our selected hotels as per the itinerary.

Gold Class Cabins:



Gold Class Cars are purpose-built, new carriages designed for the 21st century to offer top-class comfort and service, which equals the best luxury trains in the world today. Each carriage has five twin compartments, all fitted with one upper berth and one lower berth that converts to a sofa seating for daytime travel. Each compartment offers 77 square feet of space and features its own private shower and toilet facilities and has a wardrobe, audio system, DVD/VCR with the latest flat, plasma screens and air conditioning with individual climate control by remote handset.

Silver Class Cabins:



The Silver Class Carriage provides complete comfort for our passengers. These newly added cabins are slightly smaller than Gold Class Cabins offering 60 square feet, but still

have modern en-suite facilities with a smaller shower area. The sleepers are modern air conditioned cars built in Germany. They are cozy and comfortable, and provide an ideal method of transport for the remote areas of Russia that you will visit. Each car has six twin compartments, all fitted with one upper berth and one lower berth that converts to a sofa seating for daytime travel.

There is ample space for luggage storage and for suitcases in a recess above the corridor area. Clothes hangers are provided and the cars are well appointed with mirrors, bedside table, reading lamps and space for the storage of small items.

The Tour Includes:

- *All meals.
- *Wine, beer and soft drinks provided with Lunch and Dinner.
- *Experienced tour representatives throughout the tour.
- *Russian Interpreters able to speak English, German, French and Italian.
- *Comprehensive off-train sightseeing program as detailed in the itinerary. Please note that all touring is with fellow-passengers at all times.
- *A doctor who travels with the train throughout the tour.
- *Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water throughout the tour from your car attendant.

The Tour Does Not Include:

- *Travel cancellation insurance.
- *Charges of a personal nature on the train or at the hotels (laundry, telephone, bar account, etc.)
- *Visas (as required) or Excess Baggage Charges, Airport Departure Taxes, Vaccination or Medical Costs.

Options and Extensions:

Please contact Exeter International for tour extensions and options in Russia. All tour extensions are on a private customized basis.

Exeter International

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