



# AN EXTRAORDINARY, VIP TOUR OF ST. PETERSBURG & MOSCOW

JUNE 24 THROUGH 30, 2012

Presented Exclusively to  
Exeter International Guests  
On The Silver Whisper



## Featuring Exeter International Extraordinary Experiences

- Private tour of the Hermitage Museum on Monday, **when it is closed to the public**
- Private tour of Peterhof Palace on Tuesday, **when it is closed to the public**
- Exclusive visit to the Kremlin's Grand Faceted Palace and Terem, **which is always closed to the public**



## DAY ONE

June 24, 2012 | Sunday

### St. Petersburg

8:00AM arrival on the Silver Whisper. At 10:00AM, your guide will be waiting for you to take you 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 will have lunch today at the restaurant Podvorye. This charming restaurant is made of wood and features lively folk entertainment at lunch. Lunch consists of 2 courses, vodka, wine, mineral water, and coffee or tea.

Afterwards, you will visit the lavish Catherine Palace and its fabled Amber Room. This palace was originally designed in the 1750s in the Rococo style by the famous architect Rastrelli (who also designed many of St. Petersburg's grandest buildings like the Winter Palace, parts of Peterhof, the Stroganoff Palace, and the Smolny Cathedral) for the Tsarina (Princess) Elizabeth, who named it after her mother Catherine I – Peter the Great's second wife. Later, Catherine II (the Great) commissioned the Scottish architect Charles Cameron to re-design the palace's interiors in the then-fashionable Neo-Classical style. After Catherine the Great's death, the palace remained largely unchanged for centuries until the Second World War when the Nazi army, retreating after the unsuccessful siege of Leningrad, destroyed the palace almost completely. After the war, the magnificent palace and its interiors were thoroughly and painstakingly rebuilt, but renovations at some parts still continue.

**Hotel: Silver Whisper**

**Meals: Breakfast (Silver Whisper), Lunch, Dinner (Silver Whisper)**



## DAY TWO

June 25, 2012 | Monday

St. Petersburg

This morning you will disembark from the Silver Whisper and meet your guide on the pier at 9:30AM.

Today you will be among the few ever to be allowed into the Hermitage and Winter Palace on a Monday, when it is closed to the public. You will be able to enjoy the collection without the usual summer crowds for a truly extraordinary experience.

**The Hermitage museum is closed on Mondays and special arrangements have been made to open the museum especially for you for a private tour.**

This afternoon lunch will be served in a local restaurant (two courses and unlimited mineral water, tea or coffee).

Later you will visit 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 18th 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.

Finally today, your guide will take you into the stately St. Isaac's Cathedral. Its malachite and lapis lazuli columns are not to be missed! St. Isaac's was built between 1818 and 1858 by the French-born architect Auguste Montferrand to be one of the most impressive landmarks of the Russian Imperial capital. During World War II, the golden dome was painted gray to avoid its being targeted by Nazi fire. 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.

Check in at the Taleon Imperial Hotel located on Nevsky Prospect and within a short walk to Palace Square and the Hermitage.

Dinner this evening at a leading St. Petersburg restaurant.

**Hotel: Taleon Imperial**

**Meals: Breakfast (Silver Whisper), Lunch, Dinner**



## DAY THREE

June 26, 2012 | Tuesday

St. Petersburg

This morning your guide will meet you at 9:00AM to take you on another very unusual excursion- to Peter the Great's summer palace, **Peterhof, on a day that it is closed to the general public. You will be among the few ever to enjoy this world famous palace without the usual summer crowds.**

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.

When you walk through 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 18th century Russia. You will journey underneath the fountains and learn of their remarkable engineering and history.

As you move towards the lower gardens you 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!

Lunch today is in the historic Orangery of Peterhof Palace opposite the famous Triton fountain. The grandfather of the modern greenhouse, this Orangery served as the palace's main garden center and was used as a freeze shelter for the garden's many orange, apple, and other fruit trees during the harsh St. Petersburg winters. Although the café located inside the historic building is not a fine dining restaurant, the buffet style restaurant offers hot soups, rolls, salads and other light cuisine. Cost of lunch today is included in the tour.

If the weather is nice, a special treat is to take the express hydrofoil from Peterhof back to 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.

**Hotel: Taleon Imperial**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**



## DAY FOUR

June 27, 2012 | Wednesday

**Moscow**

Morning transfer to the rail station for embarkation on the Sapsan high-speed rail service to Moscow, Russia's new bullet train offering the most luxurious and convenient way to travel between the cities (3 hours and 40 minutes). Business class seats have been reserved for you and lunch will be served on board.

Arrival into Moscow and transfer to the exquisite Ritz Carlton Hotel Moscow just steps from Red Square.

This afternoon, after a break to freshen up, your guide will take you on an introductory walk of your hotel's neighborhood and Red Square. 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 cathedral 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 its domes, each of which contains a separate chapel.

You will also have the opportunity to stroll through the neighboring 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. The many churches that line the streets of this neighborhood are excellent examples of the architectural styles dating back to the 15th and 18th century.

**Hotel: Ritz Carlton**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (onboard Sapsan)**



## DAY FIVE

June 28, 2012 | Thursday

Moscow

This morning your guide will take you to see the famous Tretyakov Gallery. The Tretyakov is located in one of Moscow's most interesting neighborhoods, Zamoskvoreche ("beyond the Moscow River"), which was originally settled in the 13th century. The small winding streets give this area an almost old-fashioned atmosphere, with historic churches and the mansions of 19th century wealthy merchants.

The Tretyakov Gallery is 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 Russian painters of the 20th century.

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.

To the south of the city lie a number of fortified monasteries, built to defend the city against the Mongols. The most spectacular of them is Novodevichy Convent, constructed in the 16th century. This serene sanctuary houses the convent's fascinating cemetery with 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.

Your next stop today will be Moscow's Museum of Cosmonautics, a rarely visited museum that brings to life the history of Soviet and Russian space exploration. The museum is located at the base of the impressive (and famous) Monument to the Conquerors of Space, which is some 350 feet high and covered with titanium. You can also see Cosmonaut Alley, which is lined with busts of cosmonauts, space scientists, and rocket engineers including Yuri Gagarin - the first man to fly into space, and Valentina Tereshkova - the first woman to fly into space. The Space Museum re-opened in 2009 after years of renovation and expansion and now houses an expanse of authentic exhibits focusing on the different stages of space exploration. You won't want to miss the collection of space suits which shows how they were developed and improved through the years, the small capsule in which Gagarin flew into space, and the models of space stations - some of which one can actually walk through. There is also a café in the lobby area where 'space food' is available for purchase!

**Hotel: Ritz Carlton**

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**



## DAY SIX

June 29, 2012 | Friday

**Moscow**

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 was 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 a private entry into the Diamond Vaults. 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! Your guide will provide you with a detailed history behind these jewels and obtain an insight into Russia's imperial history.

A light lunch will be included today near the Kremlin.



#### EXETER INTERNATIONAL EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE

This afternoon you will be among the few ever allowed into the Grand Kremlin Palace to see the Grand Kremlin Palace proper, the Faceted Chamber, and the Terem. The ancient Terem was home to the very earliest tsars and was the official residence of the Romanovs. The Faceted Chamber, the oldest building in the complex, was constructed in the fifteenth century by the order of Ivan the Terrible. Today, these palaces have been completely renovated at the cost of over \$300 million dollars in the 1990's and are now used by the Russian President for entertaining and hosting State visits and meetings. Some of the rooms, including the Romanov's Throne Hall and St. Alexander's Room are unique in the world. Please note that special permission and security clearance is required for this visit. Your passport details will need to be sent to Kremlin authorities at least one month prior to your visit. This excursion cannot be moved to another time once it is confirmed.

Special note: All touring today is on foot. Please wear comfortable shoes.

**Hotel:** Ritz Carlton  
**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

#### DAY SEVEN

June 30, 2012 | Saturday

Moscow-onwards

Your driver will meet you at your hotel and transfer you to the airport for your onward flight.

**Meals:** Breakfast



## PRICING

### RITZ CARLTON MOSCOW AND TALEON IMPERIAL HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG

**\$4,500 per person, double occupancy, when the Silversea cruise is purchased through Exeter International.**

**\$5,000 per person, double occupancy, when the Silversea cruise is not purchased through Exeter International.**

**Single Supplement: \$1,350**

### MOSCOW MARRIOTT AURORA AND TALEON IMPERIAL HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG

**\$4,300 per person, double occupancy, when the Silversea cruise is purchased through Exeter International.**

**\$4,800 per person, double occupancy, when the Silversea cruise is not purchased through Exeter International.**

**Single Supplement: \$1,000**

## ST. PETERSBURG

One (1) Superior Room for Two (2) nights at the Taleon Imperial; tax (18%) and buffet breakfast daily included. The first night of this program will be on board the Silver Whisper.

### TALEON IMPERIAL HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG

The Taleon Imperial Hotel is the only lodging in St. Petersburg providing accommodations in a czarist-era palace. Restored and modified by some of Russia's finest artistic talent, the hotel opened in May 2003 in time to celebrate the city's 300th anniversary and just finished an expansion into a neighboring palace. This intimate boutique hotel features only 89 exceptional rooms. The hotel's location is simply one of the best, putting it just steps from the Hermitage while being right on Nevsky Prospekt – St. Petersburg's grand boulevard.

Room interiors combine the latest advances of modern technology with the grandeur and charm of past centuries, and the dining is rated as the city's finest. We especially love the new Georgian restaurant. The hotel also offers a stunning new rooftop pool and spacious fitness center and spa.

Superior Room: Each Superior Room features 330 square feet of space. Bedding is a choice of one king or two twins. Views may be of the resplendent Moika River, the airy hotel atrium, or the tranquil interior yard.

Upgrades (per person, for two nights)

**Superior Suite  
Deluxe Suite  
Executive Suite  
Taleon & Eliseev Suites**

**+\$100 per person  
+\$200 per person  
Please contact Exeter  
Please contact Exeter**



## MOSCOW

One (1) Superior Room for Three (3) nights at the Ritz Carlton Hotel Moscow; tax (18%) and buffet breakfast included.

Option: Marriott Aurora in Moscow (please see pricing).

## RITZ-CARLTON MOSCOW

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 19th 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.

Upgrades (per person, for three nights, double occupancy)

<b>Deluxe Room</b>	<b>+\$225 per person</b>
<b>Executive Room</b>	<b>+\$425 per person</b>
<b>Club Room</b>	<b>+\$625 per person</b>
<b>Executive Studio Suite</b>	<b>Please contact Exeter</b>
<b>Carlton Suite</b>	<b>Please contact Exeter</b>

Upgrades (per single, for three nights)

<b>Deluxe Room</b>	<b>+\$425 per person</b>
<b>Executive Room</b>	<b>+\$850 per person</b>
<b>Club Room</b>	<b>+\$1,250 per person</b>
<b>Executive Studio Suite</b>	<b>Please contact Exeter</b>
<b>Carlton Suite</b>	<b>Please contact Exeter</b>

## MEALS

Meals are included in your program only where noted. Breakfast is included every day at your hotel or onboard the Silver Whisper and includes the buffet breakfast in the main restaurant. Room service items will be charged separately. All meals other than breakfast will feature a set menu and will offer coffee, tea and mineral water as beverages. No alcoholic beverages, sodas or specialty coffees are included in the cost, unless noted, and they must be paid locally.

Your guide will also recommend restaurants that fit your exact needs daily.

## SERVICES

Vehicle, Driver and Guide services as described in the program. Please note that any extra services that you might wish to add will be charged additionally.

## TRANSFERS

All transfers to and from airports and rail stations are included in the program.

## 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

No theater is included and may be added separately. We have access to the best seats for the best performances available.

## TICKETS

All museum tickets as described in the program.

## AIRFARE

No airfare is included.

## TRAIN TICKETS

Business class, one way, Sapsan high-speed train tickets are included in this program between Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Not Included:

- Gratuities to drivers and guides
- International airfare
- Meals other than breakfast daily at the hotels (unless otherwise noted)
- Incidental costs

## EXETER INTERNATIONAL CUSTOM GROUP 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

The sightseeing program will be exactly as described. The sightseeing program cannot be amended to any guest's personal preferences. Should you prefer a private touring program customized to your exact wishes, please contact Exeter International for a personal touring program quote. Should you require additional time with a guide or vehicle, 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.

## BOOKING CONDITIONS

### PAYMENT

Exeter International must receive a deposit of 10% of the total program cost before reservations for your 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

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 January 2011. 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.



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