



AN EXTRAORDINARY, VIP TOUR OF ST. PETERSBURG

JUNE 24 THROUGH 27, 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**



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.

Evening at leisure in St. Petersburg. Please contact Exeter International if you are interested in attending a performance at the Mariinsky (Kirov) Theater this evening for opera, ballet or symphony (not included in the program).

Hotel: Taleon Imperial
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY FOUR

June 27, 2012 | Wednesday
St. Petersburg - onwards

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

Meals: Breakfast



PRICING

TALEON IMPERIAL HOTEL ST. PETERSBURG

\$2,400 per person, double occupancy, when the Silversea cruise is purchased through Exeter International.

\$2,700 per person, double occupancy, when the Silversea cruise is not purchased through Exeter International.

Single Supplement: \$300

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)

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	+\$100 per person
Deluxe Suite	+\$200 per person
Executive Suite	Please contact Exeter
Taleon & Eliseev Suites	Please contact Exeter

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

First 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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