

EXETER INTERNATIONAL



Waterways of the Tsars Tour

*Moscow to St. Petersburg
September 5 – September 16, 2012*

Since the reign of Peter the Great, sailing the waterways of Russia was a regular feature of the lives of the Romanovs. The Imperial yacht Standart, of Nicholas II, was so elegant and so well appointed that she was the envy of every monarch in Europe.

In keeping with this grand tradition, Exeter International's Waterways of the Tsars allows guests to explore the ancient villages of rural Russia as the Romanovs did, in complete luxury and comfort. Envision enjoying this voyage from the deck of a fabulous riverboat as it glides through the lakes, rivers and canals that connect Moscow and St. Petersburg. It's twilight on the sun deck and the fairytale villages of Russia are but feet from your window.

Day 1

September 5 Wednesday

Moscow

Arrival into Moscow, where you will be met by your private driver and Exeter International Greeter. Your greeter will be waiting for you just outside of Customs, after you pick up your luggage. He or she will be holding an Exeter International sign for identification.



Arrival at the Ritz Carlton Hotel located in the center of the city, where you will check into your room.

Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner in a local restaurant.

Hotel: Ritz Carlton

Meals Included: Dinner

Day 2

September 6 Thursday

Moscow

This morning your guide will meet you in the lobby of your hotel for your visit to the vast Tretyakov Gallery. The Tretyakov is located in one of Moscow's most interesting neighborhoods. This area, called Zamoskvoreche ("beyond the Moscow River") 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 20th Century Russian painters. Here you can see

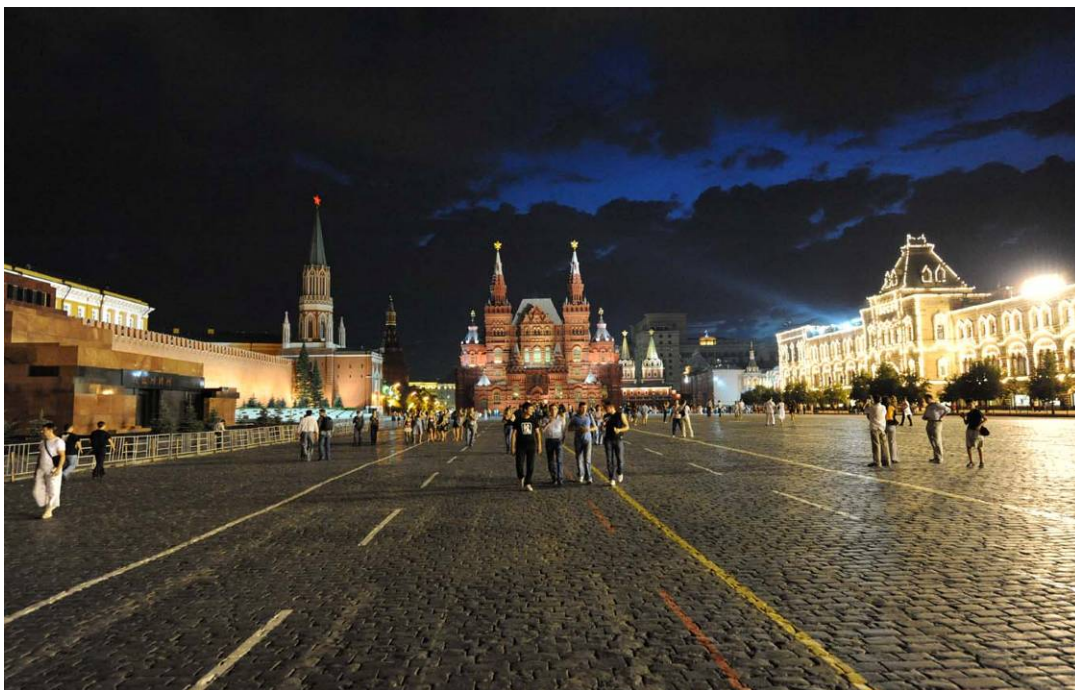
a timeline progression of Russian icons starting from the 16th century through to the 20th century. Each century of icons is arranged in separate halls to convey a clear insight into the development of Russian Icon painting.

Today you will 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.

You will then venture outside the city to Novodevichy Convent and cemetery, constructed in the 16th century. This serene sanctuary houses the lovely Cathedral of the Virgin of Smolensk. Located adjacent to the convent is its fascinating cemetery housing 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.

Hotel: Ritz Carlton

Meals Included: B, L



Day 3

September 7 Friday

Moscow

This morning, please check out of your hotel and meet your guide in the lobby of the hotel for your walking tour. Today your guide will take you into the enormous and only recently completely Christ the Holy Redeemer Cathedral. This church was demolished under Stalin's rule and completely rebuilt by Mayor Luzhkov of Moscow in 2001- at the budget of over 350 million dollars! It is a beautiful cathedral and it now stands as it did at the turn of the 20th Century.



Next, you will visit the Kremlin and 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. You will also see 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.

Your guide will also show you 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 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.

This afternoon you arrive at the river port for boarding of the Volga Dream. Your cabin key will be issued to you at the reception of the boat as you board.



Once onboard the ship, you will have time to settle into your cabin and explore before dinner this evening.

Please note that you will receive a daily schedule in your cabin each evening for the next day.

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: B, D

Day 4

September 8 Saturday

Uglich

Today, upon arrival in Uglich you will enjoy a walking tour of this charming town. Founded in 1148, Uglich is one of the most beloved towns in old Russia. As you approach the town by river, the view of the town is especially lovely with the Cathedral of the Resurrection and St. John's Church looming on the horizon. This delightful town retains much of its original charm in the form of historic wooden

architecture and elegant cathedrals, including the famed Tsarevitch Church that was built in memory of Ivan the Terrible's son, who died mysteriously on this site.

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: B, L & D



Day 5

September 9 Sunday

Yaroslavl

Yaroslavl is a large river port stretching along the banks of the Volga River. Yaroslav Mudry (the Wise) founded the city in 1010. It was a large center of trade and crafts in the 17th century. It is famous all over Russia for its textiles in the old tradition.

Yaroslavl belongs to the "Golden Ring" cities of Russia and it's one of the largest centers of Russian architecture and arts of the 13th - 17th centuries. Today you will tour this city's historical and architectural monuments.

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: B, L & D



Day 6

September 10 Monday

Goritz

As you continue our journey, you will enjoy the breathtaking scenery as you sail through the White Lake and through the Volga-Baltic Canal. The canal was constructed by those who were political prisoners during the Stalin regime. When you arrive in Goritz you will visit the historic Kiril-Beloserskiy Men's Monastery founded in 1397. Here you will discover its rich history and magnificent architecture.

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: B, L & D

Day 7

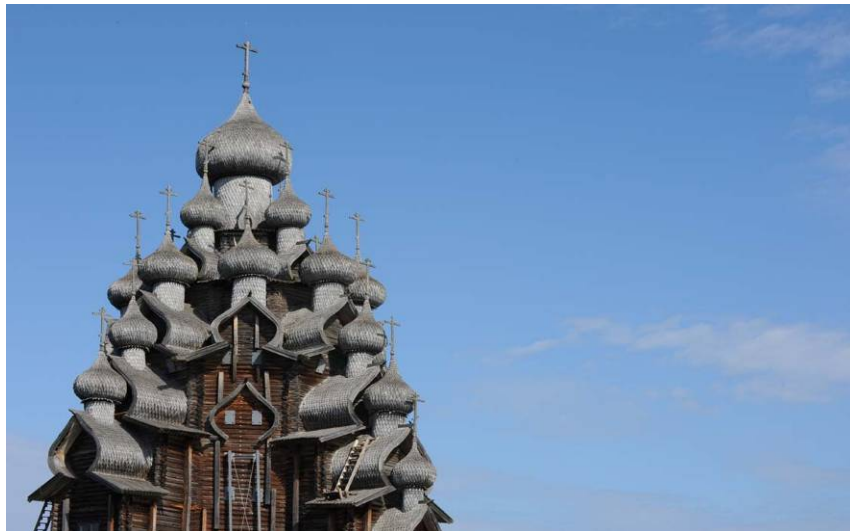
September 11 Tuesday

Kizhi Island

Traveling on the Volga-Baltic Waterways you will arrive at the tiny island of Kizhi. You will visit the Open-Air Museum demonstrating the traditional culture of Russians in Zainejje. Next will be a walking tour visiting the architectural ensemble of the House of Schepin and Elizarov, the Chapel of Michael Archangel, the Church of Lasar Resurrection, the Church of Pokrov and the Transfiguration Church.

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: B, L & D



Day 8

September 12 Wednesday

Mandrogi

Today after lunch, you will enjoy a tour through the quaint village of Mandrogi. The town is a recreation of a traditional Russian village complete with old wooden houses and villagers handcrafting matryoshka dolls, lace and ceramics.

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: B, L & D

Day 9

September 13 Thursday

St. Petersburg

This morning please meet in the reception area. You may leave your baggage outside your cabin for a cabin attendant to bring down to reception. Your guide will meet you at the ship to take you to Palace Square and the Hermitage Museum. Your walk will take you to the heart of the city and Palace Square (*Dvortsovaya Ploshchad*) - the most grandiose among the squares of the city. The focal point of its architectural ensemble is the Winter Palace, an architectural masterpiece of the Russian Baroque and the royal residence of all the Russian Emperors but Paul.

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.

Afternoon arrival to the hotel and check in. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to rest, go shopping or explore St. Petersburg on your own.

Hotel: Taleon Imperial

Meals Included: B, L

Day 10

September 14 Friday

St. Petersburg

Today you will head 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 either to or from Peterhof. The one-hour ride takes you out of the city traffic and into the Baltic Sea! It is important not to have a late start this morning so we can guarantee admission into this busy and popular palace.



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. If you travel via hydrofoil and arrive by water (as Imperial guests usually did), 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 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 will 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 will 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.

Before returning to your hotel, you will see the ornate Church on Spilled Blood on Canal Griboyedova. The Church on Spilled Blood is so named because it stands on the spot where the Emperor Alexander II was assassinated on March 1, 1881. Its unique design was actually inspired by St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow. This is the only church in the world covered completely inside and out by mosaics of

tiles and precious and semi-precious stones. This is one of the most extraordinary buildings in St. Petersburg and is well worth the visit. During the Bolshevik revolution the church fell into a state of decline, and only recently has it been fully restored to its former glory. Across the street you will find a small souvenir market selling inexpensive Russian handicrafts.

Hotel: Taleon Imperial

Meals Included: B, L

Day 11

September 15 Saturday

St. Petersburg

This morning your guide will meet you to take you out into the Russian countryside to see two of the city's most elegant and beautiful palaces- Pavlosk Palace and Catherine Palace (formerly Pushkin).

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* 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.



Next, you will visit 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 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.

Hotel: Taleon Imperial

Meals Included: B, L

Day 12

September 16 Sunday

St. Petersburg-Onward

Please check out of the hotel and meet your driver in the lobby for your transfer to the airport and flight onward.

Meals Included: B

Tour starts in Moscow **Tour ends in St. Petersburg**
September 5, 2012 September 16, 2012

Main Deck Superior Cabin \$8,025 per person double occupancy
Single Supplement \$2,575

Promenade Deck Deluxe Stateroom \$8,575 per person double occupancy
Single Supplement \$3,350

Sun Deck Deluxe Staterooms \$8,575 per person double occupancy
Single Supplement \$3,350

Promenade & Sun Deck Junior Suite \$9,650 per person double occupancy
Single Supplement \$6,650

Sun Deck Deluxe Junior Suite \$10,525 per person double occupancy
Single Supplement \$8,500

Owner's Suite \$12,150 per person double occupancy
Single Supplement \$11,000

Promenade Deck Standard Single \$9,800 per person single occupancy

Sun Deck Standard Single \$10,650 per person single occupancy

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.

Taleon Imperial Hotel



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. This intimate boutique hotel features only 89 exceptional rooms. Exeter International guests receive special attention and an in-room welcome amenity.

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.

Superior Room: Each Superior Room features 330 square feet of space. Each comes with superior amenities, such as a King-size bed and hydro massage bath. Views may be of the historic neighborhood or the tranquil hotel interior.

Services

Transfers

All transfers to and from airports are included in the program. Unless otherwise noted, all transfer service is with a driver only, not a guide. In general, drivers have extremely limited English-speaking skills. Should you wish to have an English-speaking guide for your transfer, please inquire for the additional cost.

Guides

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

Tickets

All museum tickets as described in the program.

Exeter Small Group 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 to show you the very best in each city. The program has been carefully planned to maximize your time and comfort. Please do understand that the itinerary cannot be modified at a guest's request. Should you wish to deviate at any time, please notify your guide and he or she will be delighted to make alternative arrangements for you, payable locally.

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 (and your guide may have alternate plans) 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 \$1,000 per person before reservations for your program can be confirmed. The balance of payment is due 90 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 90 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit of tour cost

- 90 – 60 days prior to departure, 50% of total tour cost
- 59 days or less prior to departure, 100% of total 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. Insurance must be purchased with your deposit to cover pre-existing conditions.

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 August 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.

Weather, heavy traffic and heavy crowds may affect the order of your sightseeing program.

Prices are subject to change until paid in full.

Visa fees are not included in the program.

Exeter International

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