A Private Historical and Cultural Tour of Moscow 2019
Featuring Extraordinary Experiences:
Private visit to the dome of Christ the Holy Redeemer Cathedral

Itinerary at a Glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Arrive in Moscow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>Moscow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>Moscow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td>Moscow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>Departure from Moscow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why Exeter International?

At Exeter International we have been creating memories and crafting our trademark extraordinary journeys to Central Europe, Russia, Scandinavia, and Central Asia for 25 years. Our specialty is to distill the best of the best in iconic places that are on so many people’s travel must-do list.

We are not a call center of nameless, faceless people. We do not try to be everything to everyone. We are a small team of specialists. We are all committed to providing the best travel experiences to our destinations. Each member of our team has travelled extensively throughout our destinations, giving them insider knowledge lacking in many other tour operators.

Our Extraordinary Experiences are different, unusual, and often closed to the general public. We can offer special insider access that takes you beyond the typical tourist sites. We know how important it is to remain authentic and increasingly going beyond the well-known sites is what is important to our guests—discovering the little-known museum or street market that adds to their experience. We do this through our local knowledge, cultivating our extensive contacts and regularly visiting each destination to enable us to share the most up-to-date insider information with you, our valued partner.

The most important part of your trip will be your guides. Guides come in many quality levels, especially in our part of the world. We have worked with a core group of the best of the best for over 20 years. We know them like family and if they weren’t the best, they wouldn’t work for us. Simply stated, a guide can make or break your experience. You should have 100% confidence in who is introducing you to your guide and the level of guiding that you are going to get throughout the countries you will be visiting. The best does indeed cost more and we pay our guides at the very top of the market, with pride.

You’ll also want to know what kind of vehicle your tour will include. We use luxury late-model vehicles, often Mercedes, Audi, BMW, or Volkswagen, depending on the size of the vehicle you need. You’ll want to see things that may or may not be open to the public and go in early or after hours before the crowds whenever possible. We also make every effort to skip lines whenever possible. Avoiding long museum lines is one of our top priorities and we work hard to minimize the wait time to get into the most popular sights in each city, maximizing your time in each destination.

You’ll want impeccable planning and someone to bounce ideas off of before your trip and speak English as well as you do while planning your trip so there are no cultural misunderstandings when you arrive. You’ll also want someone to talk to if your trip is not perfect when you get home. These are all ways that we distinguish ourselves from all other companies.

A lot goes into our travel program design. We arrange the program so that it is flawless and effortless for our travelers from the time they set foot in the first city until they leave us. The expertise to set up an itinerary like this comes after years of investing in staff on both sides of the Atlantic, and this too is a value that is incorporated into our traveler’s trips with us.
Arrive in Moscow

Arrival into Moscow, where your private driver will be waiting for you just outside of customs. Please note this flight is not included in program cost.

You will then be transferred to your centrally located hotel, just steps from Red Square and the Kremlin and across the street from the Bolshoi Theater. The rest of the day and evening is at leisure.

Exeter Services
Arrival Transfer

Hotel
Ararat Park Hyatt
Moscow

This morning, you will begin with a visit to the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts. This is the largest museum of European art in Moscow and is a must-visit. The Pushkin is best known for its French Impressionist collection—a group of paintings that were originally acquired by two famous Russian industrialists who lost their paintings after the Revolution. Part of their collection went to the Hermitage and part went to the Pushkin.

Next you will visit the grand Christ the Holy Redeemer Cathedral, which towers over historic Moscow. The cathedral was demolished under Stalin’s reign for a planned Lenin skyscraper, but eventually became an enormous outdoor swimming pool after construction failed repeatedly. After the fall of Communism, it was decided to reconstruct the cathedral and it now stands as it did at the turn of the 20th Century.

Exeter International Extraordinary Experience

After touring the cathedral, a very special guide from the cathedral will join you for a private visit to the dome of the church. After ascending to the top via elevator, you will have the opportunity to view the city of Moscow at 360 degrees, from all four sides of the dome. Standing at 300 feet above the city, the dome provides a fantastic view of the city’s most significant sites including the Kremlin, St. Basil’s, Pushkin Museum, Red October Chocolate Factory and the Moskva River. Turn a corner and you are awarded with views of several of the Seven Sisters buildings. You may even witness the ringing of the bells in the Bell towers located just above your head! It’s the ultimate Moscow city tour from the top of the highest peak of central Moscow.

Afterward stroll with the guide across the bridge to the other side of the river where you will walk through the Graveyard of Fallen Monuments—a collection of some of the sculptures removed from Moscow after the fall of the Soviet era. While in this area you can walk through the famous Gorky Park that is just across the street. There you will board the Radisson River Boat to cruise down the Moskva River which will be a great opportunity to see and photograph the city from a different angle. Following your days touring you will be returned to your hotel where you have the remainder of your day at leisure.

Exeter Services

Private Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)

Hotel

Ararat Park Hyatt
This morning you will meet your guide in your hotel lobby and enjoy a short walk to the Kremlin and through its expansive grounds. Here you will see the largest bell in the world – as well as the largest cannon. 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.

While here 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. Note: An appointment is required for visits to the Armory Museum. Once confirmed, these are not able to be changed.

Also included in your Kremlin visit today is 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!

After a break for lunch, payable locally, you can explore some of the surrounding neighborhood with your guide. In Red Square, be sure not to miss the rebuilt church and Imperial Gates at the south end of the square; they were both destroyed under Stalin and are now rebuilt in their original splendor. Your guide will also show you the stunning St. Basil's Cathedral, an iconic symbol of Moscow. 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!

To end your day you will want to experience the fascinating interiors of the Moscow Metro stations, ornately decorated with beautiful paintings, carvings, and chandeliers! The Moscow Metro was created as a 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 before escorting you back to your hotel where you then have the remainder of your evening at leisure.

**Exeter Services**
Guide (8 Hours)

**Hotel**
Ararat Park Hyatt
Moscow

This morning you will meet your driver and guide for a visit to the Tretyakov Gallery, 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 the industrialist and great art collector, 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 (Repin and Aivazovsky). This is one of the world’s greatest collections of Russian art.

Next you will make your way to the south of the city where you will find several 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 lovely Cathedral of the Virgin of Smolensk. Located adjacent to the convent, you may like to visit Novodevichy Convent’s fascinating cemetery. Novodevichy is the most beautiful of the semicircle of fortified religious institutions to the south of Moscow. Its cemetery, located adjacent, 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.

Finally, on your way back to the hotel you will visit the new Zaryadye park boasting sweeping views of the Red Square and St. Basil Cathedral. With 32 acres of recreation space right in the very center of the city, the park is located steps from Red Square. Designed by Diller, Scofido & Renfro, architects who created the New York Highline, the concept is described as ‘wild urban’ – with the park merging historical streets with nature. For many years the area was the site of the largest hotel in the world (the Hotel Rossiya) however the area has since remained vacant for many years after hotel was demolished over a decade ago. Your guide will then walk with you back to your hotel where you have the remainder of your day at leisure.

Exeter Services
Private Vehicle & Driver (6 Hours); Guide (8 Hours)

Hotel
Ararat Park Hyatt
Day 5

Depart Moscow

Today you will check out of your hotel and meet your private driver and assistant for your transfer to the airport. Here you will meet your onward flight. Please note this flight is not included in program cost.

Exeter Services
Departure Transfer
Prices:

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<tr>
<th>Per Person for Two (2) guests traveling together</th>
<th>Low Season: November 2019 – March 2020</th>
<th>From $3,425</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shoulder Season: April August 2019 – October 2019</td>
<td>From $3,475</td>
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<td>High Season: May-July 2019</td>
<td>From $3,525</td>
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<tr>
<th>Per Person for Four (4) guests traveling together</th>
<th>Low Season: November 2019 – March 2020</th>
<th>From $2,350</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shoulder Season: April August 2019 – October 2019</td>
<td>From $2,400</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Season: May-July 2019</td>
<td>From $2,450</td>
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All pricing is per person and based on double occupancy. Airfare is not included. All rates assume arrival in Moscow on a Friday. If you arrive other days of the week the prices may be higher.

Accommodations

**Moscow**

**Park View Room for 4 nights at the Park Hyatt Moscow;** tax and breakfast included.

The Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow is located in the very heart of the Russian capital, Moscow, within the immediate vicinity of the Bolshoi Theatre. The hotel is only a few minutes' walk from the Kremlin and Red Square. Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow is a modern and stylish hotel, featuring large expanses of glass and a crisp and clean feel. Rooms are spacious and soothing, in quiet earth tones. The Conservatory Lounge and Bar on the top floor of the hotel is the perfect place to relax and enjoy spectacular views of Moscow along with Moscow residents. The Park Hyatt also features one of the finest fitness centers in Moscow, as well as the very best pool in any Moscow hotel.
The hotel offers 208 Rooms & Suites, all of which have muted earth tone colors. All bathrooms are sleek and modern and feature a separate tub and rain shower (a rarity in Moscow), with heated floors. Most rooms at the Park Hyatt don’t offer any particular view, unless otherwise noted. All rooms feature complimentary wi-fi, Illy coffee machine and iPod docking station.

**Park View Room**: These rooms are each approximately 375-430 square feet and some feature a wall of glass on the outer wall, which gives guests a view of the neighborhood. The Park View Rooms overlook the Bolshoi Theater and surrounding area. These rooms feature either one king or two twin beds.

**Meals**
No meals included, other than breakfast as described above. Your final documents will include our top recommendations. *Your guides will recommend restaurants that fit your exact needs daily.*

**Services**
Private vehicle, driver and guide at your service as described. The timing for each day is noted in your program.

Exeter International’s local offices are available for your assistance 24 hours per day while you are traveling. Our local staff may also assist you with restaurant reservations and purchasing of additional theater and museum tickets at your request.

**Transportation**
Transportation is included as noted. Unless otherwise noted, all transfer service is with a driver only, not a guide. In general, drivers have limited English-speaking skills. Timing for each day is noted in your program.

**Guides**
Hand chosen for their knowledge on local history, art, and architecture. Guides are at your disposal as noted in your itinerary.

**Tickets**
All entrance tickets as described in the program.

**Exeter International Travel Information**

**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. In general, we schedule a sedan for parties of two, a minivan for parties of three to four, and a minibus for parties of five or more.

**SIGHTSEEING**
Sightseeing arrangements have been made with your special interests in mind. Your drivers and guides are at your disposal as indicated in the itinerary. Within those time and mileage guidelines, 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. Gratuities are at your own discretion. We recommend $30 per person, per day for your guide and $15 per person, per day for your driver. For your airport or station transfer, a gratuity of $20 is customary, based on service. Dollars, Euros and any local currency are all accepted.

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
PAYMENTS
Exeter International must receive a deposit of 25% 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 fewer 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 U.S. Dollars on the current rate of exchange and tariff as of 2018. 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 does not 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.