Featuring Extraordinary Experiences:
VIP Entrance to Catherine Palace
Amber Room Workshops at Catherine Palace

Itinerary at a Glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Itinerary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day 1</td>
<td>ARRIVE IN ST. PETERSBURG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 2</td>
<td>ST. PETERSBURG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 3</td>
<td>ST. PETERSBURG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 4</td>
<td>ST. PETERSBURG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 5</td>
<td>ST. PETERSBURG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day 6</td>
<td>DEPART FROM ST. PETERSBURG</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 ST. PETERSBURG

Arrival into St. Petersburg, where your private driver will be waiting for you just outside of customs. You will then be transferred to your luxury hotel. *Please note this flight is not included in program cost.*

**Exeter Services**
Arrival Transfer

**Hotel**
Hotel Astoria
This morning you will meet your guide in the hotel lobby for a short walk to Palace Square. The focal point of this ensemble is the Winter Palace - an architectural masterpiece of the Russian Baroque and the royal residence of all the Russian Emperors (except Paul) until the 1917 Revolution. The existing Winter Palace is based on three earlier versions, the first two of which were rather modest and were erected under Peter the Great. Here you will enjoy a visit to the Hermitage Museum, a collection of buildings that 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 and holds the largest collection of art in the world.

Later today, or perhaps later in your trip, you could also visit the recently opened General Staff Building, which is now a part of the Hermitage. Designed by Carlo Rossi, one of the central architects that conceived St Petersburg, the General staff building was the headquarters of the army in Imperial times. At just under 2,000 feet it is the longest building in Europe. This is now the home of the Hermitage's contemporary art collection, including its collection of French Impressionists. This afternoon, 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.

The rest of the afternoon will be at leisure to explore the city with your guide. You will enjoy a walk along the famous Nevsky Prospect, St. Petersburg’s main thoroughfare. The 3-mile-long Nevsky prospect was laid out in 1710, making it one of the city’s first streets connecting different bends of the Neva River. St. Petersburg’s most famed street starts at the foot of the Admiralty building and runs all the way to the Alexander Nevsky Lavra. Some of the main sights lining the Nevsky Prospekt include Stroganoff Palace, the neoclassical Kazan Cathedral, the Art Nouveau Book House (Dom Knigi), some 18th-century churches and the Russian National Library.

**Exeter Services**

Guide (8 Hours)

**Hotel**

Hotel Astoria
This morning you will meet your driver and guide in your hotel lobby and travel to the nearby Peter Paul Fortress: the birthplace of St. Petersburg. After walking through the many gates and across the bridges and moats, you will begin to get a feel for 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.

Afterward you may visit the Kunstkammer - the first museum in Russia, established by Peter the Great on the Neva riverfront facing the Winter Palace. It first opened to the public in 1714 with the main purpose of collecting and examination of natural and human curiosities and rarities. Today, the museum’s collections contain roughly one million artifacts and reflect the diversity of traditional cultures in the Old and New World.

Following a break for lunch, payable locally, you will set off for an exploration of 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 over a century 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 continue.

Exeter International Extraordinary Experience
During the busy summer months, we highly advise to arrange VIP entrance to Catherine Palace. Historically, our guides could skip the lines with groups of two or less, but we are finding this to be increasingly difficult. **With the included VIP entrance, you will enter through the main Golden Gates of the palace with your guide avoiding lines that can have a wait time of well over 2 hours.** You’ll be met by a palace representative and taken through the main gates to a private reception area before beginning your tour.
Exeter International Extraordinary Experience
While visiting Catherine Palace, you will also be invited into the Amber Room workshops where craftsmen rebuilt the famous amber panels lost in World War II.

Exeter Services
Private Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)

Hotel
Hotel Astoria
ST. PETERSBURG

This morning your driver and guide will take you to see one of the largest collections of purely Russian art at the Russian Museum (the former palace of Grand Duke Michael). We suggest you start at the ancient Russian icons (including a tremendous collection of Rublevs) and end with some of the most famous 20th Century Russians - including Kandinsky. Of particular note is the rarely-seen Repin collection - including Imperial portraits that were hidden during the Communist period. Repin paintings have the feel of French Impressionists but are uniquely Russian.

Next you will stop at St. Petersburg's first Fabergé Museum, a must see, that has opened at the Shuvalov Palace on the Fontanka Canal. The palace houses the celebrated Fabergé collection of the Link of Times Foundation owned by Russian Entrepreneur Viktor Vekselberg, which, with its over 1500 choice pieces, now easily outranks the comparatively small collection of the Kremlin Armoury Museum. Mr. Vekselberg has assembled the most formidable collection in the world of works by this great Russian master craftsman, best known for his celebrated million-dollar Imperial Easter Eggs.

Later, 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 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.

This afternoon, weather permitting, you will have a private boat tour of the canals of St. Petersburg. This is one of the most enchanting ways to explore the city, as you take in the sights while gliding along the canals and rivers of the city, past the Winter Palace, the Mariinsky Theater, the Summer Gardens, and many other important sights. The boat ride is an optional excursion and is not prepaid. Your guide will make the arrangements for you if you are interested and you can pay for this excursion on site.

EXETER SERVICES
Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)

HOTEL
Hotel Astoria
ST. PETERSBURG

Today we recommend visiting the Oranienbaum and its hidden gem: the Chinese Pavilion. Unlike many of St. Petersburg’s palaces, the Oranienbaum was spared during World War II. The exquisite interiors of the Chinese Pavilion, including a gallery of magnificent ceremonial rooms, have therefore remained virtually intact since the date of its construction in 1769 as the personal palace of Catherine the Great. The Chinese Pavilion is only open in the summertime and is weather-dependent. This palace will close unannounced due to inclement weather.

Afterward you will visit Peterhof, to see first-hand the palace’s countless fountains and gardens. Peterhof Palace (or Petrodvorets in Russian) is often called the Russian Versailles due to the prominence of the gardens and fountains. Walk through the gardens to see Peterhof’s most enchanting treat— the trick fountains. While here you will 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.

While strolling through the lower gardens of Peterhof, you will come to one of Peter the Great's favorite buildings, including his very personal residence, Mon Plaisir (“my pleasure”). This tiny palace has low ceilings (which Peter preferred) and sits directly on the banks of the sea. This was his summer palace and was often used on his way coming and going to Europe through the harbor at Kronstadt.

When the weather cooperates in the summertime, a special treat is to take the express hydrofoil either to or from Peterhof. The thirty-minute ride takes you out of the city traffic and into the Baltic Sea! Your guide will go with you on the hydrofoil and your driver will meet you at the palace. Cost of hydrofoil is included in your tour.

If you are interested, your guide will take you to the Kuznechny Market. This is the best of St. Petersburg’s local markets and is a hive of activity with enthusiastic vendors pressing you to taste every vegetable and fruit imaginable.

EXETER SERVICES
Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)

HOTEL
Hotel Astoria
DAY 6

DEPARTURE FROM ST. PETERSBURG

Today meet your private driver and assistant for your transfer to the airport for your onward flight. Please note this flight is not included in program cost.

EXETER SERVICES
Departure Transfer
### Prices:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Low Season: November 2019 – March 2020</th>
<th>From</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per Person for Two (2) guests traveling together</td>
<td>$4,225</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shoulder Season: April August 2019 – October 2019</td>
<td>From</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$4,550</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Season: May-July 2019</td>
<td>From</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$5,250</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low Season: November 2019 – March 2020</td>
<td>From</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Person for Four (4) guests traveling together</td>
<td>$3,325</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shoulder Season: April August 2019 – October 2019</td>
<td>From</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$3,375</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High Season: May-July 2019</td>
<td>From</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$4,075</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All pricing is per person and based on double occupancy. Airfare is not included.

### Accommodations

**St. Petersburg**

**Junior Suite for 5 nights at Hotel Astoria;** tax and breakfast included.

Commissioned in 1910 the hotel was conceived as a celebration of the tercentenary of the Romanov dynasty and opened in December 1912. Built by one of St Petersburg’s most famous architects, Fyodor Lidval, who had his own style that some have termed ‘Northern Modern’ and is almost Art Nouveau.

The décor is light and airy and gives a sense of place that is more Chekhov’s Russia than opulent Oligarch, with oak parquet floors and pristine Russian Volga linen curtains and bedspreads. Splashes of color are added with sumptuous velvet cushions and we love quirky touches like the photo of Sean Connery and Daniela Bianchi in From Russia with Love in each of the bathrooms of the junior suites.
The Litchfield Bar is a perfect place to enjoy a frozen vodka or two, and the Rotunda lounge, with its large windows overlooking St Isaac’s Square is a relaxing place to watch the world go by and enjoy afternoon tea from a traditional Russian Samovar. Café Astoria serves a very nice mix of international and Russian favorites. The hotel is wonderfully located in the heart of the city in St Isaacs Square and is in walking distance from the Hermitage and the banks of the Neva River, and many excellent restaurants.

**Junior Suite:** These beautiful oversize rooms feature approximately 470 square feet of space and offer a choice of one king or two twin beds. Décor is contemporary in a traditional setting and suites feature a small sitting area and bedroom all in one space. Bathrooms feature a separate tub and shower. Junior Suites feature views of Bolshaya Morskaya Street.

**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.

Exeter International
www.exeterinternational.com
111 South Dakota Avenue | Tampa, Florida 33606
Phone: 813 251 5355 | 800 633 1008 | Fax: 813 251 6685