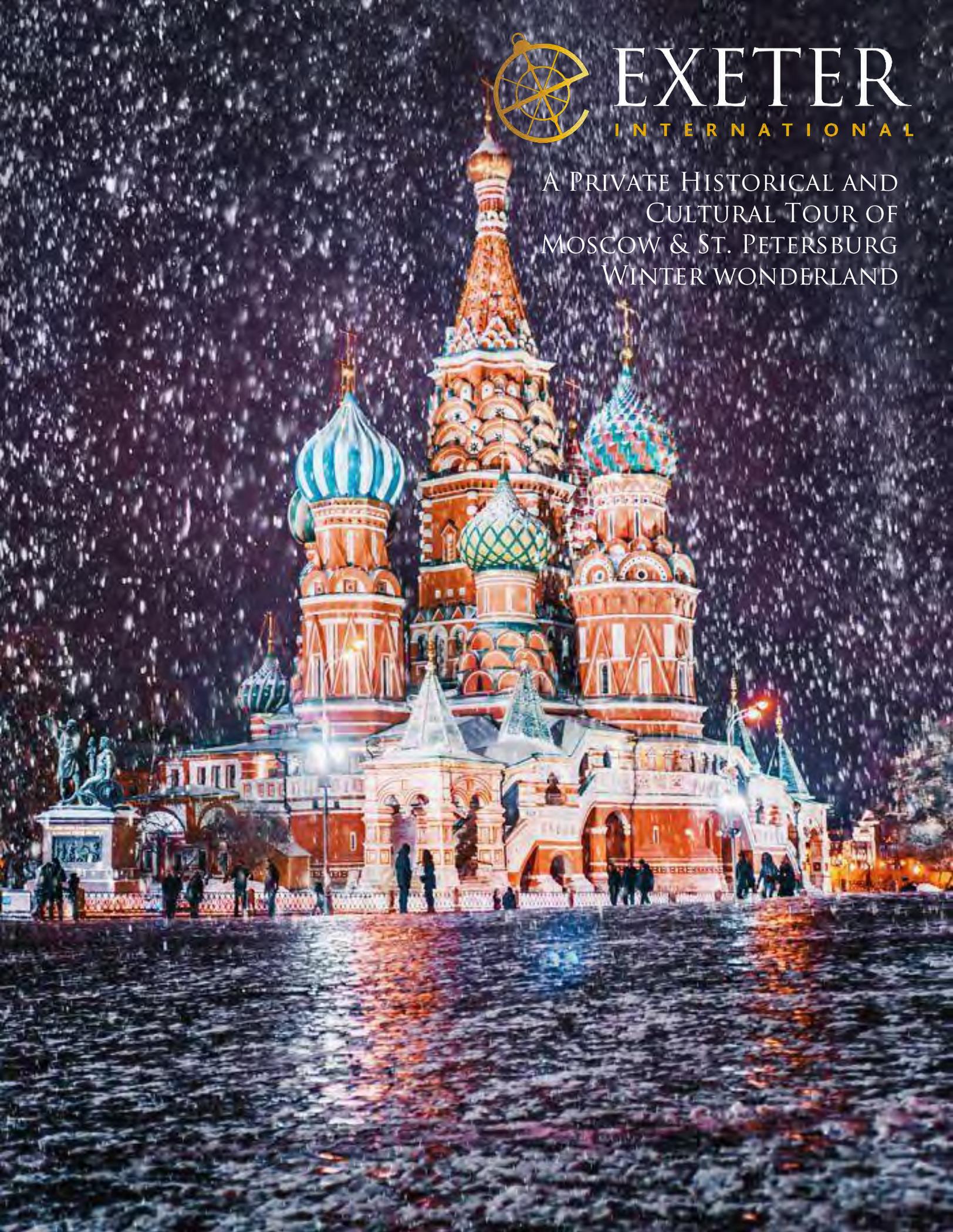




EXETER
INTERNATIONAL

A PRIVATE HISTORICAL AND
CULTURAL TOUR OF
MOSCOW & ST. PETERSBURG
WINTER WONDERLAND





ITINERARY AT A GLANCE:

DAY 1	ARRIVE IN MOSCOW
DAY 2	EXPLORATION OF KREMLIN
DAY 3	TRETYAKOV MUSEUM- BANYA
DAY 4	MOSCOW-ST. PETERSBURG
DAY 5	PETER PAUL FORTRESS, FABERGE MUSEUM
DAY 6	COOKING CLASS, HERMITAGE
DAY 7	CATHERINE AND PAVLOVSK PALACES
DAY 8	DEPARTURE

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.

DAY 1



ARRIVE IN MOSCOW

Winter is a great time to visit Russia. The massive crowds have disappeared, allowing exploration of the museums the way they are meant to be enjoyed. Snow blankets the landscape, making the cathedrals and palaces even more magical. The longer hours of darkness wrapped the cities in coziness, a good excuse to celebrate all the best Russia has to offer-vodka, caviar and sleigh rides!

Today you arrive in Moscow. Please note this flight is not included in program cost. On arrival your private driver will be waiting for you outside of customs and baggage claim.

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

If you feel like stretching your legs this afternoon you may want to walk over to the nearby Zaryadye park for sweeping views of the Red Square and St. Basil Cathedral. With 32 acres of recreation space right in the very centre of the city, the park is located steps from Red Square.

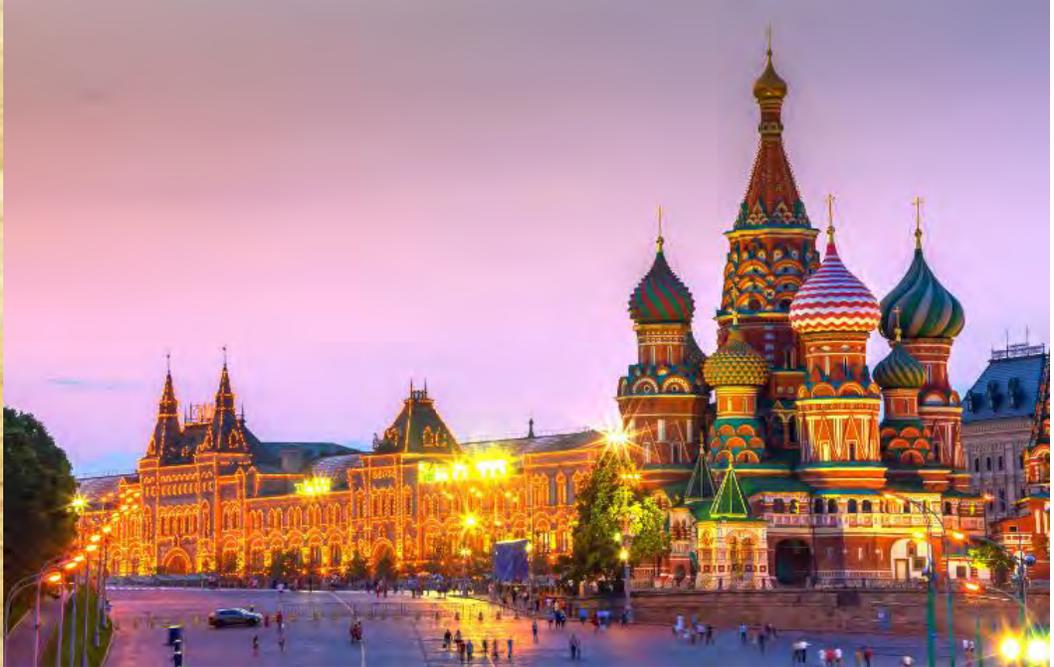
EXETER SERVICES

Arrival Transfer with Assistance

HOTEL

Park Hyatt

DAY 2



MOSCOW

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. In the Armory you will find many of the most important Imperial thrones and crowns, including the most historic, Cap of Monomachus.

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 gemstones in the world!

Afterwards, your guide will take you to 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!

In the winter season, an ice-skating rink is set up in Red Square. This is a great opportunity to see the locals enjoying themselves. If motivated, lace up some skates yourself!

This evening, we recommend attending a performance at the famed Bolshoi Theater. Cost is not included, subject to schedule.

EXETER SERVICES

Guide (8 Hours)

HOTEL

Park Hyatt

DAY 3



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.

Continue to the VDNH Exhibition Hall, dating back to Stalin's era. The park features various pavilions highlighting all the countries of the former USSR, proving insight to the country's history and architecture. The park has ice skating and an ice labyrinth.

After spending some time in the cold, warm up with a visit to a local Banya. This Russian tradition dates back centuries and still enjoyed by the young and old alike. A private room will be arranged for you.

EXETER SERVICES

Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)

HOTEL

Park Hyatt

DAY 4



MOSCOW-ST. PETERSBURG

This morning you will be met at your hotel and escorted to the train station for your departure to St. Petersburg. The four-hour journey will take you through the heart of the countryside.

Upon arrival into St. Petersburg the driver and assistant will meet you on the platform by your carriage.

You will then be transferred to your hotel to spend the remaining evening at leisure.

EXETER SERVICES

Station Transfers with Assistant

HOTEL

Astoria



DAY 5

ST. PETERSBURG

This morning, your guide in your hotel lobby. To get you acquainted with Peter the Great's "Venice of the North," you should start with an overview city tour that will start where all tours should begin - the 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 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.

Before returning to your hotel, you will also pass by the famous Bronze Horseman statue of Peter the Great, the Strelka (the spit in the center of the Neva River, overlooking the Winter Palace, the first stock exchange, Peter Paul Fortress and dozens of stately palaces) and of course, the grand Nevsky Prospect, the main avenue of the city.

Continue to the Fabergé Museum at the Shuvalov Palace. 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. Today you have a privately guided tour of the collection.

We suggest to end the day at Art Caviar to indulge in the Russian specialty. Renowned head chef Roman Palkin oversees the kitchen and no expense has been spared on the interior, down to the beautiful custom designed porcelain created by the Imperial Porcelain Factory; wines have been carefully selected and paired by sommelier and winner of the Baltic Cup, Evgeny Shamov. *Please note cost is not included.*

EXETER SERVICES

Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)

HOTEL

Astoria

DAY 6



ST. PETERSBURG

Today you will have a cooking lesson to learn how to make Russia's favorite comfort food-pelmeni and draniki! At the invitation of chef Sergey at the classic Russian restaurant, 1913, you will be invited as special guests into his kitchen and learn the finer points of how to prepare Russian dumplings and their famous potato pancakes.

Start by mixing the dough by hand and then rolling it out into sheets in a fine layer. You'll prepare the stuffing, today it will likely be mushrooms, and then create your pelmeni by dropping the stuffing into the dough pouch. It's easier than it sounds and chef Sergey will explain everything! Draniki are wonderful potato pancakes that are just as simple to prepare and even more wonderful to taste.

Afterwards, you will make your way 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. The Hermitage Museum complex, it's sure to 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 complex of four buildings, including the Winter Palace holds the largest collection of art in the world. You'll be able to explore the vast collections with your guide.

If interested, stroll across the square to the 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.

Before returning to your hotel, warm up with a vodka tasting at the Russian Vodka Museum. This unique institution is located in the historical building of the Horse Guard Regiment Headquarters and Stables. You will have the opportunity to learn not only about the history of Vodka production in Russia, but also about the significance of this drink in the Russian society and its drink.

EXETER SERVICES

Vehicle & Driver (4 hours); Guide (8 Hours)

HOTEL

Astoria



DAY 7

ST. PETERSBURG

Today, meet your guide for a journey out 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.

Afterwards head to Catherine Palace and its fabled Amber Room. VIP entrance is included. 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.

This palace was originally designed in the 1750s in the Rococo style by the famous architect Rastrelli for the Tsarina Elizabeth, who named it after her mother Catherine I—Peter the Great's second wife. 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.

Afterwards, you will be escorted to your private sleigh. Step back in time and experience the splendors of a ride through the snowy countryside just as the Tsars traveled.

EXETER SERVICES

Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)

HOTEL

Astoria

DAY 8



DEPART FROM ST. PETERSBURG

Today meet your private driver and assistant in your hotel lobby for your transfer to the airport to catch your onward flight.

EXETER SERVICES

Departure Transfer with Assistant

WHAT'S INCLUDED



Cost of the Program:

From \$6,875 per person, double occupancy, based on two guests traveling together
From \$4,950 per person, double occupancy, based on four guests traveling together

Accommodations

Moscow

Three nights in a Park Room at the Ararat Park Hyatt; Tax and Breakfast daily 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 and 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 Rooms: These rooms are each approximately 375–430 square feet and face the quiet inner courtyard. These rooms feature either one king or two twin beds.

St. Petersburg

Four nights in a Deluxe Room at the Rocco Forte Astoria; Tax and Breakfast daily 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. Local touches throughout the hotel like the beautiful Imperial porcelain in clean white or intense cobalt blue give the hotel a classic but contemporary feel.

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.

Deluxe Room: All these rooms overlook Bolshaya Morskaya Street and some have views of the Mariinsky Palace. Deluxe Rooms offer approximately 270 square feet of space.

Meals

No meals included. 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. *(Theater tickets not included in current price)*

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 and are at your discretion. Please see your final documents for suggestions.

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 2019. 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

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