Essential Shore Program in St. Petersburg with Moscow Day Trip 2020
**Featuring Extraordinary Experiences:**

**VIP Entrance to Catherine Palace (Optional)**

**Amber Room Workshops of Catherine Palace**

**Special Touring Notes:**

Some palaces are open late in the summer on certain days, allowing for later entry with fewer crowds. If you are open to early evening touring, please let us know and we’ll schedule accordingly.

The itinerary below is merely a suggestion to cover the highlights of St Petersburg & Moscow in the short time you have. If there are any special interests you have, please let us know well in advance so we can incorporate this into your sightseeing program.
Why Exeter International?

Our Knowledge & Experience
At Exeter International we have been creating memories and crafting custom-designed journeys for 27 years. We are a team of specialists committed to providing the best travel experiences in our destinations. Each of our experts has either travelled extensively on reconnaissance trips, or has lived in their area of expertise, giving us unparalleled first-hand knowledge. Because we focus on specific parts of the globe, we return to the same destinations many times, honing our experience over the years.

Hand-Selected Guides
We know that guides are one of the most important components of any travel experience. That is why we only use local experts who have a history of working with our guests and whom we know personally. We are extremely particular in selecting our guides and are confident that they will be one of the most memorable aspects of any of our trips.

Authentic & Extraordinary Experiences
Our Extraordinary Experiences are different, unusual, and not something easily googled. We also know how important it is to remain authentic. Going beyond the obvious is becoming increasingly important to our guests, and we focus on developing experiences that enrich and enhance both head and heart. We also recognize that the obvious sights are still popular, and we make every effort to skip lines whenever possible, therefore maximizing time in each destination.

Original Custom Programs, Meticulously Planned
Our experts speak your language both literally and culturally. Our advice and recommendations are impartial, honest, and always have the individual in mind. We save valuable time in pre-trip research and offer smooth and effortless touring in each destination. Our planning is detailed, and we think of everything, including restaurant reservations. You will also have complete peace of mind on the ground with 24-hour local support.

Quality Vehicles
We use late-model luxury vehicles, often Mercedes, Audi, BMW, or Volkswagen, depending on the size of the vehicle you need. The only exception to this is in some Central Asian countries that use vehicles predominantly from Japan.
This morning meet your guide and driver outside your cruise ship. 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 - 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.

Afterwards, your guide will take you into the stately St. Isaac’s Cathedral. Its malachite and lapis lazuli columns are not to be missed! 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.

This afternoon, you will make the short drive 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. After his death, the palace was repeatedly expanded and redesigned, most notably by the famous architects Domenico Trezzini and Bartolomeo Rastrelli.

Afterwards, make your way across Palace 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.

Today the building has been transformed — its five courtyards glassed over, its various levels linked by concrete and glass staircases, which blend sympathetically with the original architecture and provides a stunning backdrop for the art: Monet, Cezanne, Renoir, Degas, Gaugin, Matisse, Picasso and Van Gogh, to name just a few. This is now the home of the Hermitage’s contemporary art collection, including its collection of French Impressionists and Post-Impressionist Art.

**EXETER SERVICES**
Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)
Day Trip to Moscow

This morning your driver and English-speaking assistant will meet you at the dock. You will then be transferred to the nearby train station. Here you will board the high speed Sapsan train to Moscow. *Business Class or better tickets have been included for you.*

Upon arrival in Moscow you will be met by your private driver & guide.

Today, your guide will take you into the Kremlin and through its expansive grounds. Here you will see the largest bell in the world – as well as the largest cannon. 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. We suggest you don’t miss 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.

Included in your Kremlin visit today is entry into the Diamond Vaults. Admission to these extraordinary rooms is by special appointment with the Kremlin and *your guide is not allowed to enter with you.* Your entry to the Diamond Vaults is with a pre-set group of other visitors, and you will have approximately twenty minutes to browse these rooms on your own. 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!

Next, your guide will take you on a stroll through 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.

Later, you may 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 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.

In the evening, you will be transferred to the train station to catch the high speed Sapsan train back to St. Petersburg. Business Class or better tickets have been included.

On arrival in St. Petersburg, you will be met and transferred to your cruise ship.

**Exeter Services**

Train Station transfers (St. Petersburg; Moscow); Guide (Moscow - 10 Hours);
This morning, meet your guide and driver outside your cruise ship.

One option is a visit to St. Petersburg’s first Fabergé Museum located at the Shuvalov Palace on the Fontanka Canal, right in the city center. 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. Please note: there are various ways to see the Fabergé Museum, not just private. Please inquire for options.

Alternatively, you can visit the famous Yusupov Palace on the banks of the Moika Canal. Enjoy a tour of the palace including its famous theater and Arabian Room. You will hear the story of Rasputin’s murder and more history of Russia leading up to the Revolution.

You may wish to have lunch today in the village of Pushkin (home of Catherine Palace) at a local restaurant. Lunch cost is not included in your tour and is payable locally.

Afterwards your driver and guide will take you to see one of the city’s most elegant and beautiful palaces—Catherine Palace (formerly Pushkin) 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.

**Exeter International Extraordinary Experience: VIP Entrance to Catherine Palace (OPTIONAL)**

During the busy summer months, we highly advise to arrange **VIP entrance to Catherine Palace.** Generally, our guides are able to skip the lines with groups of two or less, but we are finding that this is getting increasingly difficult. With VIP entrance, you will enter through the main Golden Gates of the palace with your guide avoiding all the lines. You will then be met by a palace representative. Your guide will walk you to the main entrance from the gates, and take you into the private reception area where you will be able to use the facilities and leave your coats. Your tour of the palace will then begin. Please note that **VIP Catherine Entrance is not included in program cost. Please inquire for details if you are interested.**
Exeter International Extraordinary Experience: Amber Room Workshops
While visiting Catherine Palace, you will be invited into the Amber Room workshops where craftsmen rebuilt the famous amber panels lost in World War II. This tour is by appointment only and cannot be moved to another time or day.

Exeter Services
Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)
Cost of the Program:

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<th>Number of Travelers</th>
<th>Per Person Price</th>
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- All prices are per person
- Seabourn, Silversea, Sea Cloud and other yacht-size ships dock right in the heart of the city, near St. Isaacs Cathedral. All other vessels dock approximately 45 – 50 minutes from the city center.
- Prices are subject to change based on customization for each traveler and on port dates.
- **A full Russian visa is necessary for travel to Moscow.**

### Meals

No meals included. Your final documents will include our top recommendations. Your guides will recommend restaurants that fit your exact needs daily.

### Visas

Please note that all guests going to Moscow will need to apply for a full Russian visa. Cost of visa is not included in the cost of the program.

### 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 & architecture. Guides are at your disposal as noted in your itinerary.

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

**Exeter International Travel Information**

**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 and are at your own discretion. Please see your final documents for tipping 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

- 61 days or more prior to departure, all deposits are non-refundable
- 60-15 days prior to departure, 50% of total tour cost
- 14 or fewer 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 US Dollars on the current rate of exchange and tariff as of 2020. 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.

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