



EXETER

INTERNATIONAL

EXETER SHORE TOUR
3-DAY
ST. PETERSBURG
2021





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 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 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.

Knowledgeable Up-to-the-Minute Local Information

We are best placed to give you advice about traveling to Europe and beyond; from logistics and new protocols in museums, hotels and restaurants in each country. We are here to expertly guide you through the new normal in travel.

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 focus on developing experiences that enrich and enhance your experience. Once on your journey you will have complete peace of mind with our local 24-hour contact person who is on hand to coordinate any changes in your program or help you in the case of any emergency.

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.

Flexible Deposit

We prepay deposits for services so we can access the top guides, the best drivers and maintain preferred partnerships with our partner hotels. Our deposit to confirm services is **25%** of the total trip cost. We want you to feel confident to book but also know that we are sensitive to current circumstances. Therefore, **15%** of this deposit is refundable up to **31 days** prior to departure if you are unable to travel for any reason. **10%** of the deposit will be retained as a future travel credit for up to 3 years. Future travel will be priced at prevailing rates. If it is determined that you are unable to travel within 31 days of the start of services, all deposits paid will be converted to a future travel credit, less nonrefundable funds committed on your behalf and tickets such as train or theater tickets. This credit may also be applied to our sister travel companies: [Almaz Journeys](#) and [Exeter Safari Company](#).

Financial Stability

We are proud to be recognized by Allianz Insurance on their list of covered [travel suppliers](#) to give you additional peace of mind.



DAY 1

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

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.

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.

The art collection, started in 1764 by Catherine the Great, grew over a period of two decades as she acquired more pieces. Eventually she commissioned new buildings to house the ever-growing collection, the Hermitage. Now the complex of four buildings, including the Winter Palace, holds the largest collection of art in the world.

If you are interested, you may also visit the General Staff Building, located just across Palace Square, 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.

EXETER SERVICES

Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)

DAY 2



ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

Meet your guide just outside your cruise ship.

Exeter International Extraordinary Experience: Faberge Privately Guided

Begin today with a visit to St. Petersburg's first Fabergé Museum. The palace houses the celebrated Fabergé collection of Russian Entrepreneur Viktor Vekselberg, which, with its over 1500 choice pieces, now easily outranks the comparatively small collection of the Kremlin Armoury Museum.

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.

Afterwards your driver and guide will take you to see one of the city's most elegant and beautiful palaces-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.

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.

EXETER SERVICES

Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)

DAY 3



ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

Meet your guide and driver just outside your cruise ship for a morning visit to Peter the Great's summer palace, 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. 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. Walk through the gardens to see what Peterhof is most famous for – the magnificent fountains and gardens. After you may want to visit the Grottos of Peterhof. You will journey underneath the fountains and learn of their remarkable engineering and history. *Today you will only visit the fascinating grounds, gardens and grottos. Admission to the palace is not included in today's visit. Should you wish to visit the palace, we highly recommend VIP entrance.*

Make time to visit the lower gardens where you 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- the 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 the weather is nice in the summertime, a special treat is to take the express hydrofoil back to the city 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 your destination. *Cost of hydrofoil is included in your tour.*

EXETER SERVICES

Vehicle, Driver & Guide (8 Hours)

WHAT IS INCLUDED



Cost of the Program:

Number of Travelers	Per Person Price
2	\$2,200
4	\$1,350
6	\$1,125
8	\$975

- 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 “blanket” visa is included in all Exeter shore tour programs. Individual visas, if desired, are not included, but can be arranged.

Meals

No meals included. Your final documents will include our top recommendations.

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.

Shore Tour Documents

Shore tour documents are electronic and are emailed approximately two weeks prior to travel. These include all the emergency contact details you will need. You have your choice of receiving these via PDF or via the AXUS app.

Exeter International Travel Information

RUSSIAN VISAS

Exeter International is able to take guests ashore in St. Petersburg without a Russian Visa as long as the Russian government's special conditions are met. This is only possible if your shore program is booked at least 30 days in advance and if all of your passport details are submitted by that time. You will only be allowed to leave your ship in the company of an Exeter driver or guide. Should you wish to have the ultimate flexibility to dine out or explore on your own, we recommend obtaining a Russian Visa. Please inquire for details.

SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing arrangements have been made with your special interests in mind. Your drivers and guides are at your disposal for full or half-day sightseeing programs as indicated in the itinerary. Within those time and mileage guidelines, your driver and guide are at your disposal, so 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.

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

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.*

Exeter International

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