



A TALE OF TWO CITIES: EXPLORING MOSCOW & ST. PETERSBURG

with Holy Cross Associate Professor of Russian, Dr. Olga Partan

June 13 – 21, 2020

Sponsored by the Holy Cross Alumni Association

Have you ever wondered why Moscow is called “The Third Rome” and St. Petersburg “The Northern Venice”? In the current political climate, when Russia is often demonized by the Western mass media, what is the essence of Russian attitudes toward the Western world?

On this tour, we will visit the two great rival cities – Moscow and St. Petersburg - exploring how their rich cultural heritages reflect the juxtaposition of Russia and the West. In the first part of this journey we will plunge ourselves into Moscow’s eclectic nature, with its golden cupolas of Orthodox churches, rich cultural life, and streets jammed with foreign cars and expensive boutiques that exhibit both centuries-old tradition and the new post-Soviet ways of life. In the second part of the trip, we will move to the stylish westernized city of St. Petersburg, envisioned by Emperor Peter the Great as “a window to Europe” and built by foreign architects. We will visit world famous art museums and the country estates of the Russian Tsars. While exploring the Russian and Soviet past that is interwoven with the post-Soviet quasi-capitalist present of these two cities, we will visit cathedrals and museums, go to performances and concerts, and of course experience great Russian food.

Through daily talks, Prof. Partan (a Moscow native who teaches Russian language, literature and culture) will share her expertise at on Russian culture, addressing such topics as Russia and the West, Russian art and literature, Faith and Superstitions, Gender Roles in Russian Society, as well as Russian views of national identity and historic destiny.

Daily Itinerary & Tentative Performance Opportunities

(subject to change):

DAY 1: DEPART USA

We depart the USA today on our overnight transatlantic flight from JFK International Airport, NY to Moscow, Russia. Meals and snacks are served on board.

DAY 2: ARRIVE MOSCOW

Upon arrival in Moscow, we are greeted by our World Cultural Tours **Professional Tour Manager**, who escorts us to our private motor coach. We enjoy a **panoramic orientation tour** of the city and a visit to **Christ the Saviour Cathedral**. After our tour we transfer to our hotel for check-in and enjoy our **Welcome Dinner** at **Café Pushkin** (subject to confirmation) Holy Cross students who are participating in a summer academic program through the Russian department will join us for the dinner this evening.

(D) 4* Hotel Accommodations or better

DAY 3: MOSCOW

This morning, we continue our sightseeing tour of Moscow by enjoying a **guided visit** to **Kremlin Territory, Cathedral** and the **Armory Chamber**. We enjoy some free time for independent exploration and lunch on our own in the Red Square area prior to transferring back to our hotel. We have the remainder of the evening at leisure with dinner under our own arrangements.

(B) 4* Hotel Accommodations or better

9-DAY TOUR

INCLUDES:

- ▶ Roundtrip Airfare from JFK:
Including Air Taxes Up To \$650
- ▶ Seven (7) Nights Accommodations
Four (4) Nights in Moscow
Three (3) Nights in St. Petersburg
- ▶ Luxury Motor Coach
- ▶ Professional Tour Manager
- ▶ Full Breakfast Daily
- ▶ Welcome Dinner
- ▶ One (1) Additional Dinner
- ▶ Farewell Dinner
- ▶ Sightseeing per Itinerary
- ▶ Gratuities

\$4,599 P/P Dbl. Occ.

(Plus Fuel Surcharges/Air Taxes Exceeding \$650, Pending Air Confirmation)



Tour Code:
HCA008



DAY 4: MOSCOW

After breakfast this morning, we embark on a **guided tour** of the city including a visit to **The Pushkin Art Gallery**. We have the afternoon at leisure for independent exploration. This evening we attend a **fine arts performance at Bolshoi Theatre** (*subject to confirmation*).

(B) 4* Hotel Accommodations or better

DAY 5: MOSCOW

Following breakfast this morning, we visit the **State Tretyakov Gallery**. After our visit we have the afternoon free for shopping and independent exploration. This evening we visit the famous **Moscow Circus** (*subject to confirmation*). Dinner is on our own this evening.

(B) 4* Hotel Accommodations or better

DAY 6: MOSCOW - ST. PETERSBURG

This morning, we check out of our hotel and transfer to the train station. We board our **high speed train** to St. Petersburg. Upon arrival, we embark on a guided city tour including a visit to the **Peter & Paul Fortress**. We then transfer to our hotel for check-in and enjoy **dinner** together tonight.

(B,D) 4* Hotel Accommodations or better

DAY 7: ST. PETERSBURG

Following breakfast, we continue our touring with a **full-day of sightseeing** highlighting the **Hermitage Museum, St. Isaac's Cathedral** and **the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood**. We have free time for lunch on our own before returning to our hotel to freshen up, prior to attending a **fine arts performance at Marinsky Theatre** (*subject to confirmation*). Dinner is on our own this evening.

(B) 4* Hotel Accommodations or better

DAY 8: ST. PETERSBURG

After breakfast this morning, we enjoy entrance to the **Russian Museum** paired with a **guided tour** of **Peterhof Palace & Gardens** and we return to St. Petersburg, taking the scenic route via **hydrofoil**. We delight in our **Farewell Dinner** this evening by taking in the views of the river at **Koryushka Restaurant** (*subject to confirmation*).

(B,D) 4* Hotel Accommodations or better

DAY 9: DEPART ST. PETERSBURG - ARRIVE USA

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our return flight home to the USA. **(B)**

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESPONSIBILITY: A VALID PASSPORT IS REQUIRED FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS and must be valid at least six months after your tour return date. Please note that passport cards are not considered valid for international travel. For domestic travel within the continental USA, a passport is not required for US citizens, however an unexpired form of local or federal government-issued photo ID (passport, driver's license, military ID) is required for all adult passengers (18 and over). Please send – with each deposit and registration form – a copy of each registrant's passport (or government-issued photo ID for domestic tours), if applicable. Failure to submit a copy of your valid passport (if applicable) may result in penalties or additional fees charged by the airline/participating partners to make corrections to your reservation. A TRAVEL VISA MAY BE REQUIRED FOR NON-US CITIZENS (TRAVELERS WITHOUT AN AMERICAN PASSPORT), who are traveling internationally. It is the responsibility of the traveler to contact the embassy of any countries that will be visited during the tour (including countries visited during flight layovers) to determine whether a travel visa is required, and for further information about the application process. Any visas must be obtained as the sole responsibility of the individual traveler. If you need a travel visa, World Cultural Tours (WCT) requires that you submit written verification that a visa has been obtained or a photocopy of your visa, no later than 15 days prior to the departure date of your tour. World Cultural Tours (WCT) and other participating affiliates act solely as agents in arranging transportation, hotel accommodations, and other services. We do not assume, and in fact, we expressly disclaim, any liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, consequences resulting from cancellations and/or delays including, but not limited to, schedule changes, strikes, war, political conflict, riots, inclement weather or acts of God. Likewise, we assume no liability for any act, negligence or default of tour guides, including their agents and employees, or any company or person engaged in the transport of passengers, rendering of any service, or conducting arrangements for any tour. WCT reserves the right to cancel any tour or alter the tour price due to insufficient participation. In the event that a group must cancel in full due to lack of materialization or the inability to meet the minimum number of participants that the tour price was based on, tour members will receive a full refund, less a \$150 administration fee and/or any non-refundable penalties owed or paid on behalf of the tour (this includes penalties for airline deposits, hotel deposits, transportation deposits, non-refundable entrance fees or performance tickets). Furthermore, WCT reserves the right, at our sole discretion, to modify any itinerary or arrangements based on unprecedented situations that may arise. In the event modifications should become necessary, alterations may be made without penalty to the operator; additional costs, if any, shall be incurred by the traveler. All registrants are invoiced with single occupancy rates if no roommate is specified. We will adjust rooming lists & invoices accordingly upon written notification of roommate preferences. It is the responsibility of the individual traveler to find a roommate, or group organizer to match unpaired individuals.

DEVIATION: If any passenger wishes to deviate from the group by extending their tour or by making any alterations to the included group travel arrangements, please visit www.worldculturaltours.com to initiate a deviation request through our Contact Us page or by emailing CustomerService@WorldCulturalTours.com no later than 91 days prior to departure. A Tour Consultant will contact you, therefore it is important to include telephone and/or email information. You will be required to submit a Deviation Request Form along with a non-refundable deviation administration fee (\$150 P/P) in order to initiate a deviation request and before any quotation or arrangements can be made. Please note that additional fees charged by the airline or other service providers may apply. Payment may be submitted online at www.worldculturaltours.com. **LAND-ONLY ARRANGEMENTS:** If you plan on making your own air arrangements, you must notify World Cultural Tours in writing and submit an official Land-Only Request Form, no later than 91 days prior to departure. Your account will be updated with the land-only reduction or applicable adjustments only once the Land-Only Request Form has been received. All travelers are responsible for any travel arrangements not included in the tour program, as well as round trip arrival and departure transfers and any arrangements necessary to join the group at their first hotel accommodation.

TOUR PRICES: All tour prices are based on costs, charges & exchange rates known at time of booking. In case of currency fluctuations (if applicable) of more than 3% WCT reserves the right to adjust the tour price accordingly. Any domestic and/or international residency taxes, departure or arrival taxes, security charges, baggage fees, and other types of air or airport or port taxes or any other surcharges not included in the tour price will be the responsibility of each passenger. **Current fuel surcharges, carrier imposed fees, and air taxes are averaging between \$650-\$750 per person.** Our preferred method of payment is in the form of a check; however, online individual payments can be made, using an electronic check with Intuit or using a credit card, through our website, www.worldculturaltours.com. A non-refundable convenience fee of \$30 will be assessed, per transaction, for all credit card payments. A \$50 Returned Check Fee will be assessed for each returned check. A single check or credit card payment may be made for multiple registrants. Please note that WCT reserves the right to require final payment via credit card or electronic check in the event of a past-due balance that needs to be expedited. Furthermore, WCT reserves the right to cancel all tour arrangements for traveler(s) with past-due balances; however, WCT will make every effort to contact said traveler(s) prior to taking action.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Individual cancellations are effective on the date notification is received in writing. You may submit cancellation notices to the following email address: Accounting@WorldCulturalTours.com. Any travel protection premiums and unused tour portions are non-refundable and any costs of services received while traveling are non-refundable. Up to 121 days prior to departure, full refund less a \$150 administration fee will be made. After that period, additional cancellation fees will be assessed as follows:

120- 91 days prior to departure – loss of deposit
60- 46 days prior to departure – 50% of total tour price is forfeited

90- 61 days prior to departure – 35% of total tour price is forfeited
45- 0 days prior to departure – 100% of total tour price is forfeited