



# RUSSIA

MAY 12-22, 2022

PRESENTED BY THE MUSEUM OF RUSSIAN ART



Experience Russia's artistic achievements, historic treasures, and rich culture with Mark J. Meister, TMORA's Executive Director & President, and Chief Curator, Dr. Maria Zavialova. This remarkable itinerary focuses on the nation's cosmopolitan capital of Moscow and the "Venice of the North" St. Petersburg. You'll enjoy unique and exclusive access to Russia's foremost artistic and cultural destinations with one-on-one connection to experts, behind the scenes tours, and a host of dynamic cultural performances and culinary delights.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: THURSDAY, MAY 12

#### DEPART USA

Depart from your home city on your overnight flight to Moscow, Russia.

*Moscow, on the Moskva River in western Russia, is the nation's cosmopolitan capital. In its historic core is the Kremlin, a complex that's home to the president and tsarist treasures in the Armory. Outside its walls is Red Square, Russia's symbolic center. It is home to Lenin's Mausoleum, the State Historical Museum's comprehensive collection and St. Basil's Cathedral, known for its colorful, onion-shaped domes. Moscow is the biggest city in Europe and the Capital of the Russian Federation founded in 1147.*

### DAY 2: FRIDAY, MAY 13

#### MOSCOW

Upon arrival and clearing customs, you will be met by representatives who will escort you to your waiting transportation. You will be transferred to your hotel, the St. Regis Moscow Nikolskaya, where you will be staying for the next four nights. After checking in at your hotel, you will have time to freshen up before enjoying dinner this evening.

Enjoy a welcome dinner at Ruski Restaurant - a brand new property on the 85th floor of OKO Tower with stunning views over the city. After dinner go up to the 86th floor to see the wonderful Russian capital from the open platform. D

### DAY 3: SATURDAY, MAY 14

#### MOSCOW

Your captivating half-day tour of this magnificent city begins with a visit to Red Square. Admire its prominent landmarks - Lenin's Tomb and St. Basil's cathedral, a colorful multi-domed complex whose architects were supposedly blinded by Ivan the Terrible so that they could never recreate such splendour again.

Then a ride on the world-famous Moscow metro. Considered to be unquestionably beautiful and renowned for its ornate splendour, more than 40 stations have been listed as cultural heritage sites. Elegantly decorated with chandeliers, vivid mosaics, paintings and bronze statues, each one is unlike any other in the world!

Afterwards, visit the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, one of Russia's most important cathedrals, completely destroyed in Stalin's time and restored in 1990. Complete your touring this morning with an orientation drive. You will see the Novodevichy Cemetery, Sparrow Hills with observation platform, and Bowling Hill with its 1941-1945 War memorial.

Enjoy lunch at Voronezh restaurant. This chic new butcher shop, cafe and restaurant just opened on Prechistenka and is located in an elegant 18th century mansion.

Today's inspirational afternoon tour takes in the highlights of the world's best collection of Russian icons and pre-Revolutionary Russian art. Your private guide accompanies you to the eye-catching Tretyakov Gallery, whose collection today consists of over 100,000 outstanding works of art. Originally the private collection of a wealthy Russian merchant, Pavel Tretyakov, this vast art collection was given to the Russian nation as a gift in 1892 and is one of Moscow's greatest treasures.

Your evening and dinner is on your own. B, L

### DAY 4: SUNDAY, MAY 15

#### MOSCOW

This morning's excursion takes in the superb new building of the Tretyakov Gallery that houses a unique collection of Russian 20th-century art. Among the highlights of the museum are stunning works by Mikhail Larionov and Natalia Goncharova, both artists of the association "Bubnovy Valet", whose creativity marks the beginning of the avant-garde movement in Russia. Other world-famous artists such as Wassily Kandinsky, Mark Chagall, Kazimir Malevich are also well represented. Acquaint yourself with this fascinating century in Russia's art history; including the avant-garde period, the socialist realism official style of the 1930s to the 1950s, and the Soviet Nonconformist Art movement that followed on in the 1960s.

Return to the hotel where your afternoon is free.

In the evening enjoy a dinner cruise on the elegant River Palace boat. River Palace is not a simple restaurant on the Moscow River, but a chance to enjoy the magnificent views of the most striking sights of the capital and the gastronomic cuisine based on a harmonious combination of European and Russian arts of cookery. B, D



## DAY 5: MONDAY, MAY 16

## MOSCOW

No visit to Moscow would be complete without exploring the Kremlin Territory. For centuries, the Kremlin has been witness to many well-known and tragic events in Russia's past and so it is a treasure trove of Russian history. Begin your tour with an early opening of the extraordinary State Armoury; the oldest museum in Russia and home to a vast collection of precious stones, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century jewelry and impressive selection of carriages from the best Russian and European masters, precious fabrics, royal gala clothes and a fine collection of Faberge eggs.

Your tour also includes two of the Kremlin's cathedrals: Assumption, the cathedral of coronations and the burial place of religious leaders, and Archangel, the royal burial church.

Then visit Grand Kremlin Palace. Originally built as the royal palace in Moscow for Nicholas I, the Grand Kremlin Palace is now used by the government to entertain foreign dignitaries and is closed to the public. Rooms that can be seen by special arrangement during your visit include the private rooms of the royal family, the famous Terem Palace (the 16th-Century chambers of tsarina and tsarevnas), the fifteenth-century Hall of Facets (the famous chamber for ambassadors' receptions), the nineteenth-century Hall of St Catherine (the empress's throne room) and the halls which were used for all Supreme Soviet meetings in the Soviet era.

Enjoy lunch at Bosco Café on Red Square.

In the afternoon enjoy a Bolshoi Theatre exclusive backstage tour. This exclusive access of the backstage takes you literally behind-the-scenes of the world-famous Bolshoi Theatre. The magnificent theatre, with its eight-columned portico surmounted by a statue of Apollo, was built in the mid-eighteenth century to replace the original Bolshoi Theatre, which burnt down in 1853. The interior is simply stunning, with a six-tiered auditorium decorated in red and gold. A theatre guide takes you around the backstage areas unseen by the public and recounts the history of the theatre, stories about premières and their stars and explains the Tsar's Box protocol.

Return to the hotel for some leisure time.

Optionally, for an additional cost, in the evening admire the ballet at the Bolshoi theatre (schedule to be advised) followed by the dinner at the Bolshoi restaurant. An ambitious new project by a famous Moscow restaurateur Arkady Novikov, this new restaurant is described as "most grandiose progeny to date". It has two halls furnished with luxurious furniture by Ralph Lauren and a collection of works by contemporary artists. French chef's cuisine is grounded in Russian but with French sophistication in the best traditions of Russian aristocracy. B, L

## DAY 6: TUESDAY, MAY 17

## ST. PETERSBURG

This morning you will transfer to Moscow railway station to begin your journey to St. Petersburg. Upon arrival in St. Petersburg you will transfer to your hotel, the Belmond Grand Hotel Europe.

*St. Petersburg is the fourth largest city in Europe with 5.5 million inhabitants, but also an historical and cultural city of Russia. The city was founded in 1703 by Peter the Great. The European influence made it famous as the cultural center of Russia and the Capital for nearly 200 years during the Romanov dynasty prior to the revolution. The city has been called the Venice of the North due to the canals and bridges along the Neva River, as well as the Window to the West, the Gateway to the East, and many more.*

Your afternoon is free. This evening enjoy dinner at the L'Europe Restaurant located in the hotel. B, D

## DAY 7: WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

## ST. PETERSBURG

Today you start with an early entrance experience at one of the most famous museums in the world, the awe-inspiring Hermitage, housed in the lavishly-decorated Winter Palace. The Hermitage occupies six magnificent buildings and houses 3 million pieces of artwork from the Stone Age to modern times. The main building and largest part of the museum is the rococo-style Winter Palace, residence of the Tsars from 1762 to 1917. The museum was commissioned by Catherine the Great and she and her successors built the Hermitage collection in large part with purchases from the private collections of the Western European aristocracy and monarchy. By the time Nicholas II ascended the throne in 1894, he was heir to the greatest collection of art in Europe. The whole museum complex was bombarded during the siege of Leningrad in WWII but re-opened to the public in 1945.

Enjoy lunch at Korushka Restaurant. Afterwards visit the Peter & Paul fortress which Peter the Great built in 1703 to provide protection from the Swedes. The Fortress Cathedral is the burial place of most of Russia's Tsars and Tsarinas from the 18th century onwards, including Peter the Great himself, the great architect of St Petersburg.

Return to the hotel for a bit of free time before your evening.

Enjoy dinner at the Tsar Restaurant accompanied by a Russian Folk Performance. In September 2008, a long-awaited project -Tsar restaurant of Russian Imperial cuisine was opened. The restaurant is one of few where the delicacies of traditional Russian cuisine are served. B, L, D

## DAY 8: THURSDAY, MAY 19

## ST. PETERSBURG

This morning's sightseeing takes you out of the city to Peterhof and the great summer estate of Peter the Great, nestled on the shore of the Gulf of Finland. The park features numerous palaces, summer houses and pavilions; a prominent highlight is the Grand Cascade, a delightful sequence of 37 gilded bronze sculptures, 64 fountains and 142 water jets descending from the terraces of the Great Palace to the Marine Canal and the sea.

Afterwards you are whisked back to St. Petersburg by hydrofoil.



Enjoy lunch at the newly opened Harvest restaurant. In the afternoon admire the stunning treasures at the Fabergé Museum. Founded by entrepreneur Viktor Vekselberg, the museum opened its doors in December 2013 to display a glittering collection of Faberge eggs and objets d'art created by Peter Carl Fabergé and his contemporaries. Vekselberg's collection of Faberge objects is rated as one of the world's most valuable and includes items he bought from the Forbes family for \$100 million in 2004.

Your evening and dinner are on your own. B, L

#### **DAY 9: FRIDAY, MAY 20**

#### **ST. PETERSBURG**

Start your day with a morning visit to the State Russian Museum, which showcases the history of Russian art from the tenth to the twentieth century. The expansive collection is housed in four buildings, part of the Mikhailovsky Palace, all within walking distance of each other. There are over 40,000 exhibits which have only been on public view since the end of the Soviet era.

Afterwards travel out of town to the Tsarskoe Selo ('the Tsar's village'), more commonly known as Pushkin.

Enjoy a traditional hearty Russian lunch at Podvorie Restaurant which resembles a Russian terem (wooden palace). The restaurant is housed in a typical Russian log house and its interior is filled with wooden panels and bear skins hanging on the walls of the restaurant. A relaxed, informal atmosphere is the basic component of its style.

After lunch visit Catherine Palace. Peter the Great gave the estate to his wife Catherine, who started to develop the royal country residence, but it was her daughter Empress Elizabeth who was largely responsible for the construction of the beautiful Catherine's Palace. Set in landscaped parkland, one of the baroque palace's highlights is the famous Amber Room, a chamber decorated with amber panels backed with gold leaf and mirrors which has been restored to its original glory. There are numerous other architectural delights, such as the Hermitage Pavilion and the neoclassical Alexander Palace, the favourite residence of Tsar Nicholas II.

As part of the tour enjoy an exclusive visit to the restoration rooms, the Amber workshops of the palace. Afterwards return to St. Petersburg.

This evening includes a dinner in the Restaurant Russian Ampir. The restaurant is situated on the main street of Nevsky Prospect in Stroganovsky Palace and is one of the most exquisite restaurants in Russia. Some special surprises are also in store for your evening. B, L, D

#### **DAY 10: SATURDAY, MAY 21**

#### **ST. PETERSBURG**

This morning starts with a visit to the Academy of Art. The Russian Academy of Arts in Saint Petersburg, informally known as the Saint Petersburg Academy of Arts, was founded in 1757 by the founder of the Imperial Moscow University Ivan Shuvalov under the name Academy of the Three Noblest Arts. Catherine the Great renamed it the Imperial Academy of Arts and commissioned a new building, completed 25 years later in 1789 by the Neva River. The academy promoted the neoclassical style and technique and sent its promising students to European capitals for further study. Training at the academy was virtually required for artists to make successful careers. Since 1991 it has been called the St. Petersburg Institute for Painting, Sculpture and Architecture. The historic building on the Neva River in St. Petersburg is used for the Repin Institute of Arts, full name: Ilya Repin St. Petersburg State Academic Institute for Painting, Sculpture and Architecture, in honor of one of its well-known alumni. It is also called the St. Petersburg State Academic Institute of Fine Arts, Sculpture and Architecture.

Continue with a visit to Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood. The Church of the Resurrection of Christ (more familiarly known as the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood), is a superb example of Russian architecture and decorative art from the end of the nineteenth century. The church was built on the spot where Alexander II was fatally wounded in 1881, hence the more commonly used name! Marvel at its stunning interior and exterior, both richly adorned with stunning mosaics, precious stones, enamel and colored tiles - true to the style of the age of the Muscovite Tsars of the seventeenth century. The icon-cases and canopy are not to be missed as they are rare examples of jewelry work and masonry.

Your afternoon and lunch is on your own.

In the very late evening gather for a farewell party cruise. When establishing the "Venice of the North" on forty-two islands within the River Neva's complex delta, Peter the Great envisaged the river to be the main thoroughfare of the city, and until the mid-eighteenth century, there were no bridges and people crossed between islands by ferry. Your cruise allows you to gain a unique perspective of the city not observed when driving along the streets, the granite embankments appearing like peculiar pedestals for the magnificent palaces. Because your transfer to the airport will be very, very early the next morning, this farewell cruise is designed for you to stay up until you depart for the airport. B

#### **DAY 11: SUNDAY, MAY 22**

#### **RETURN HOME**

This morning you will have a very early check-out from your hotel for an early flight departure from St. Petersburg back to your home city. B

**KEY FOR INCLUDED MEALS:** B - Breakfast L - Lunch D - Dinner

**FOR ASSISTANCE & RESERVATIONS** please contact Doug Moorhouse at Carrousel Travel: 612-798-1439 or [dmoorhouse@carrouseltravel.com](mailto:dmoorhouse@carrouseltravel.com)

# TOUR INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights Superior Room accommodations at the St. Regis Moscow Hotel Nikolskaya
- 5 nights Deluxe Room accommodations at the Belmond Grand Hotel Europe in St. Petersburg
- Transportation by private deluxe motor coach, throughout itinerary
- Full breakfast daily, 5 dinners, and 5 lunches
- Visits and entrance fees as indicated in itinerary
  - Moscow:
    - The Kremlin and Armory
    - Grand Kremlin Palace
    - Bolshoi Theatre Backstage
    - Lenin's Tomb
    - St. Basil's Cathedral
    - Christ the Saviour Cathedral
    - Tretyakov Gallery - Old and New
  - St. Petersburg:
    - Hermitage Museum early entrance
    - Peter and Paul Fortress
    - Grand Palace of Peterhoff
    - The Faberge Museum
    - State Russian Museum
    - Catherine the Great Summer Palace
    - Russian Academy of Art
    - Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood
    - Late night Neva River Cruise
  - English speaking guide from arrival to departure day
  - All taxes for included services

# ACCOMMODATIONS



## THE ST. REGIS MOSCOW HOTEL NIKOLSKAYA

This 5-star hotel is in a central location in the heart of Moscow, right on Lubyanka Square, a 10-minute walk from the Kremlin.

The elegant, air-conditioned hotel rooms and suites are decorated in beige and brown colors. Every room comes complete with a flat-screen TV, a minibar, a sitting area and a private bathroom with bathrobes and slippers.

Breakfasts are served in the Italian A Tavola Restaurant. Guests can also have coffee and tea at Orlov Lobby Bar and Lounge, or enjoy after-dinner spirits in the Robusto cognac room.

Exclusive to St. Regis Hotels & Resorts, Iridium SPA flawlessly combines science and nature to wrap the senses in unsurpassed luxury.



## BELMOND GRAND HOTEL EUROPE ST. PETERSBURG

Nestled between the city's most celebrated landmarks on the iconic Nevsky Prospekt, Belmond Grand Hotel Europe is truly at the heart of historic St Petersburg. It's easy to see why. With resplendent marble surfaces, gilded stucco ceilings, and breathtaking stained glass, our lavish spaces evoke a Russian opulence rarely witnessed today.

Contemporary influences take centre stage again at AZIA restaurant, where an inventive pan-Asian menu is accompanied by crisp Tokyo-inspired cocktails. Prefer more traditional gastronomy? Our commitment to Russia's culinary heritage is palpable in L'Europe. Refined takes on national classics are served in a stunning art nouveau interior dating back to 1905. Our Caviar Bar & Restaurant is unique in St Petersburg and employs Russia's only full-time vodka sommelier.

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# LAND TOUR PRICING

**\$6,995 per person, based on double occupancy (cash/check price)**

**\$7,250 per person, based on double occupancy (credit card price)**

Single occupancy pricing available upon request.

Price includes accommodations, meals and tours in Russia as indicated in the program inclusions and daily itinerary.

Upgraded rooms are available on request at both hotel properties for an additional cost.

# GROUP AIRFARE

**Carrousel Travel will secure special group airfare that will be available to reserve in Summer of 2021.**

# TERMS & CONDITIONS

**PLEASE NOTE** A valid passport with 6 months validity from your scheduled return is required for U.S. citizens.

**NOT INCLUDED** Airfare, air taxes and fees, passport fees, visa fees, airline baggage fees, meals (unless otherwise indicated in the itinerary), optional sightseeing, phone calls, travel insurance, tips to driver/guide, or any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary.

**RUSSIAN VISA** A Russian Visa is required for this trip. The cost is approximately \$300 USD and Carrousel Travel will assist you with this process.

**RESERVATIONS** All reservations will be handled directly with Carrousel Travel.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE** Trip cancellation insurance is available and details are available upon request.

**FIRST DEPOSIT** \$1,250 per person due at time of booking

**FINAL PAYMENT** Due by January 14, 2022

**CANCELLATIONS** Cancellations must be received in writing and are effective upon receipt by Carrousel Travel.

From 1st deposit until January 14, 2022

\$1,250 per person

From January 15, 2022 until departure

No refund

**RESPONSIBILITY** Carrousel Travel purchases transportation, hotel accommodations and other services from various suppliers that are not subject to its immediate control. Carrousel Travel cannot, therefore, be liable for any personal injury or property damage or personal loss in connection with any service which may occur due to (1) any act or omission of such a supplier, or (2) defects in or failures of any aircraft, vessel, automotive vehicle or other means of transportation that is not under their control, or (3) any circumstances arising as a result of military or political action, terrorism, weather, acts of God, epidemiological events or any other circumstances over which Carrousel Travel has no control. Carrousel Travel reserves the right to alter, change or omit any part of the itinerary as they deem necessary or desirable, and to pass on to participants any expenditures or losses caused by delays or events beyond their control. Tour price is based on a minimum of 26 participants and exchange rates in effect as of July 2019. Should the exchange rate fluctuate significantly or participants fall below a minimum of 26 participants, Carrousel Travel reserves the right to reprice or cancel the tour.

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