



July 23 – August 1, 2018



# A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspectives and commentary.

Your journey to Russia offers a wealth of life-affirming moments in Moscow, St. Petersburg and beyond. From the grandeur of the czars to enchanting nesting dolls and steamy black tea, your memories of Russia will enrich your life for years to come.

# **Inspiring Moments**

- Admire Russia's cultural treasures, from folk songs and handmade collectibles to priceless masterpieces.
- Stand in awe in historic, monumental Red Square.
- Escape the crowds with early access to the must-see Hermitage Museum.
- Feel the mist from the fountains as you stroll the grand promenades of Peter the Great's opulent palace.
- Be dazzled by the Russian baroque Catherine
   Palace and the mystery of the Amber Room.
- Take in sweeping vistas on the Sapsan, the high-speed train from Moscow to St. Petersburg.



# Dear Johns Hopkins Alumni and Friends,

Experience the opulence, humanity and drama of Russia on this thoughtfully designed 10-day journey. From its golden spires and onion domes, to its gingerbread cottages and babushkas, get to know a vast and dichotomous land that can feel like a world away.

Carefully curated for your convenience and pleasure, the Imperial Splendors of Russia program delivers an insider's look at the world's largest country and still one of its most enigmatic. Daily discoveries introduce you to Russia's grandeur while local guides and enrichment opportunities shed light on Russia's history, secrets, humor and day-to-day life.

Including all excursions, illuminating lectures, friendly local guides, and much more, our fascinating program delivers a seamless Russian adventure and an unparalleled travel value. Limited space is sure to go fast on this small-group program, so we urge you to reserve your place today!

Sincerely,

Marguerite highly formes

Marguerite I. Jones, A&S '74, Bus '88 Travel Program Director, Office of Alumni Relations The Johns Hopkins University

### AHI: 800-323-7373

### www.alumni.jhu.edu



# Art | Architecture | Culture | Cuisine | History | Mystique



D

В

### Day One

### In Transit

Depart gateway city for Moscow, Russia.

Day Two

### Moscow, Russia

Upon arrival in Moscow, transfer★ to the InterContinental Moscow - Tverskaya and check in to your room.

This evening, get to know your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception. Then enjoy dinner at the hotel.

### Day Three

### Moscow

**Enrichment:** *Russian Art.* Review the history of Russian visual arts. Learn about gilded Byzantine icons, neoclassical paintings influenced by the tastes of Catherine the Great and the masterpieces of revolutionary modern artists including Kandinsky and Chagall.

**Discovery:** *Moscow Highlights.* Take in Moscow's most notable sights on a panoramic tour of the metropolis, home to nearly 12 million residents. In recent years, this most populous city in Russia as well as Europe has transformed itself as sleek, modern skyscrapers replace relics of the Soviet era. Get to know landmarks within the Garden Ring, a network of streets that encircle the city center. See the towering fortress walls of the Kremlin, busy Tverskaya Street, sprawling



and symbolic Red Square, Manezhnaya Square and the Arbat, a welcoming pedestrian street in the city's old center. See the Stalinskie Vysotki, known as the "Seven Sisters" to English speakers, high-rises built in the Stalinist style between 1947 and 1953. Finish the tour with a visit to the copper-domed Russian Orthodox Cathedral of Christ the Savior, demolished by order of Stalin but rebuilt in the 1990s.

**Discovery:** *Tretyakov Gallery.* Experience the evolution of Russian art as you tour this collection of more than 180,000 pieces spanning a thousand years.

B|L

# Day Four

### Moscow

### Discovery: Metro, Kremlin and Red Square.

First, go below ground to see the Soviet-era splendor of Moscow's metro stations. Constructed in the 1930s as propaganda predicting a radiant





future under Stalin's leadership, the stations showcase luxury for the people, including marble floors, chandeliers, mosaics and more. Next, step inside the red walls of the Kremlin, a fortresswithin-a-city that encompasses lavish palaces, gold-domed cathedrals and Russia's highest state offices. Visit the Armoury Chamber to gaze on the treasures of the Russian czars, including crowns and jewels, Fabergé eggs, royal carriages and fierce armor. Cross Red Square to browse modern luxuries at the GUM department store, built in the Russian medieval style during the Victorian age. Then stroll to St. Basil's Cathedral to admire its swirling, ice-cream-colored domes firsthand. Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in the area.

**Free Time:** The remainder of the day is yours to discover the secrets and treasures of central Moscow.

### Day Five

B|D

### Moscow

### Discovery: Novodevichy Convent and

*Cemetery.* Explore the peaceful oasis of this 16th-century religious complex, designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Built in the Moscow baroque style, the convent is known for its gorgeous gold- and silver-domed Smolensk Cathedral and the frescoes within. Both convent



and fortress, Novodevichy stood as an important part of Moscow's defense over the centuries. Just outside the convent walls, find the Novodevichy Cemetery and visit the well-adorned burial sites of prominent artists and political leaders including Anton Chekhov, Nikolai Gogol, Nikita Khrushchev and Boris Yeltsin.

**Free Time:** Explore on your own during your final afternoon in Moscow.

This evening, indulge in fine dining, Russian-style, at one of Moscow's superior restaurants.

### Day Six

### **Moscow | St. Petersburg**

After an early breakfast, transfer to the Leningradsky rail station for your high-speed

B|D





Sapsan train ride to St. Petersburg. Named for the peregrine falcon, the Sapsan zips between cities at speeds of up to 155 miles per hour. From the train station, transfer to the Angleterre Hotel in St. Petersburg.

Discovery: St. Petersburg Highlights. Get to know Russia's cultured "window to Europe" through its famous landmarks. Positioned where the Neva River meets the Gulf of Finland, the port city is filled with canals, bridges and islands. See the Bronze Horseman, which depicts the city's eponymous founder Peter the Great; the neoclassical Admiralty with its gold spire; the ornate, onion-domed Church of Our Savior on the Spilled Blood: and other palaces, monuments and churches for which St. Petersburg is known. Visit granite-adorned St. Isaac's Cathedral and the Peter and Paul Fortress, the city's first structure, whose cathedral holds the tombs of czars. After the tour, enjoy St. Petersburg's cuisine at a restaurant in the city.

### Day Seven

### BL

### St. Petersburg

### Enrichment: Russian Music and Ballet.

Learn how the Russian passion for classical music and ballet has propelled the country's

State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg

composers, choreographers and dancers to the pinnacles of their arts.

**Discovery:** Behind the Scenes at the Mariinsky Theater. Visit the theater, formerly known as the Kirov, that has hosted the premieres of operas by Mussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and Tchaikovsky and is home to the renowned Mariinsky Ballet Company. Over 234 seasons, its stage has shown off the talents of ballet legends including Pavlova, Nijinsky, Nureyev and Baryshnikov. Complete your tour with lunch at one of the unique restaurants nearby.

**Free Time:** This afternoon, explore St. Petersburg's many cultural treasures on your own.

**Enrichment:** *Czarist Russia.* From 1613 to 1917, Russia's Romanovs ruled as czars, leading unprecedented imperial expansion of the realm. Delve into the intrigue and drama of St. Petersburg's royal dynasty, and learn about their demise in the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

### Day Eight

### B|L

### **Peterhof | Catherine Palace**

**Discovery:** *Peterhof.* Step back in time to the reign of Peter the Great on a visit to his baroque Great Palace and the formal gardens that surround it. Overlooking the Gulf of Finland, the spectacular estate delights visitors with grottoes, statues and numerous fountains many of which were painstakingly restored after being plundered during World War II.

**Discovery:** *Folkloric Russia.* Lunch at a country house, tasting traditional Russian dishes, sipping vodka and celebrating folk traditions with a delightful live music and dance show.

Discovery: Catherine Palace. Visit the summer



"Lady In Blue," Cezanne, State Hermitage Museum

residence of the Romanovs, built by Empress Elizabeth for her mother, Empress Catherine I. This gilded palace, inspired by Versailles, exemplifies the Russian baroque style. Inside, the storied Amber Room glows with intricate gold leaf designs and inlaid amber and wood. The room's décor was stolen by the Nazis but restored through a joint German-Russian effort in time for the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg in 2003.

### Day Nine

B|D

# St. Petersburg

### Discovery: State Hermitage Museum.

This famed museum, which began as the private gallery for the acquisitions of Catherine the Great, showcases one of the world's finest and broadest collections of art. Early entry lets you spend time enjoying the most popular exhibits, including many masterpieces of European Renaissance and baroque art, before the museum opens to the public.

RUSSIA

St. Petersbur

Moscow

**Free Time:** Enjoy your last afternoon in St. Petersburg at leisure.

This evening, share highlights of your Russian adventure with fellow travelers at the Farewell Dinner.

В

### Day Ten

### In Transit

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Walking is required on many excursions, and surfaces may be uneven or unpaved.

★Transfers and flights included for AHI FlexAir participants.
B|L|D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.



# ACCOMMODATIONS

Our travel experts have carefully selected these first-class properties for their prime locations. They are ideally located for exploring the region's renowned landmarks while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the quality of the services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.

**O** tripadvisor<sup>\*</sup>





INTERCONTINENTAL MOSCOW - TVERSKAYA | MOSCOW



ANGLETERRE HOTEL | ST. PETERSBURG



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# **PROGRAM DATES**

Air Program dates:July 23 – August 1, 2018Land Program dates:July 24 – August 1, 2018

# LAND PROGRAM

Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*			
\$3,745	\$250	\$3,495			
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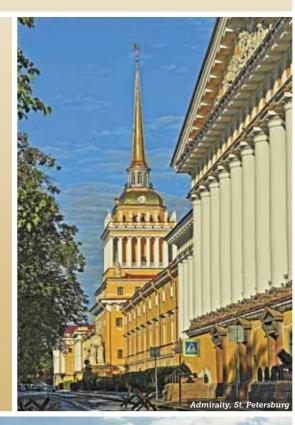
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### UNESCO World Heritage

- 1.Kremlin and Red Square
- 2.Ensemble of the Novodevichy Convent
- 3. Historic Center of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments



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(With baggage handling.)

- Four nights in Moscow, Russia, at the first-class InterContinental Moscow Tverskaya.
- Four nights in St. Petersburg at the first-class Angleterre Hotel.

### TRANSFERS

• High-speed train from Moscow to St. Petersburg and baggage handling.

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- Eight breakfasts, three lunches and four dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample authentic regional specialties during meals at local restaurants.



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  - -Enjoy a panoramic tour of Moscow's highlights.
  - -View the art of the Tretyakov Gallery.
  - -See the Metro, Kremlin and Red Square.
  - -Explore peaceful Novodevichy Convent and Cemetery.
  - -Delight in St. Petersburg's orderly elegance.
  - -Step backstage at the Mariinsky Theater.
  - -Witness Peter the Great's majestic palace and the Gulf of Finland.
  - -Feel like royalty at lavish Catherine Palace.
  - -Revel in a live performance of Russian folk singing and dancing.
  - -Benefit from early access to the Hermitage Museum.
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
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On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- ► Travel Director | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- Expert Guides | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
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