

REED RUSSIA TOUR
5-20 MAY 2012
Dr. Judson Rosengrant

This is the eighth East-

works by Cézanne, Picasso, and Matisse, among many other leading modern figures. We will reserve a full day for the Hermitage, although it is truly inexhaustible, and also visit the State Russian Museum, the apartment-museums of Fyodor Dostoevsky and Anna Akhmatova, and the suburban palace of Peter the Great in Peterhof and, in the nearby town of Pushkin, the so-called Catherine Palace, perhaps the most impressive of the tsars' summer residences. Besides its great museums and remarkable historical sites, St. Petersburg is also the home of the several distinguished performance and concert halls, including the renowned Mariinsky Theatre, founded in 1783 by Catherine II, the Great (1729-96), and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, and they will all, as in Moscow, be available to us as evening options.

While in St. Petersburg we will take an overnight trip to Russia's oldest city, Novgorod the Great, established in 862 as a Norse trading center along the system of inland waterways connecting Scandinavia to Byzantium, and part of the domain of Kievan Rus until the late twelfth century, when it became an independent city-state with ties to the Baltic Hanseatic League. In dramatic contrast to Baroque and Neoclassical St. Petersburg with its emphatic, even programmatic Western orientation (its brilliant eighteenth-century buildings are chiefly the work of Italians), Novgorod possesses one of the finest ensembles of East Slavic medieval architecture, including the Novgorod kremlin and its crown, the Cathedral of Holy Sophia, or Holy Wisdom, built in the mid-eleventh century and harking back through Kiev to the fourth-century Byzantine Hagia Sophia of Constantinople.

But remarkable historical sites, superlative museums, and extraordinary architecture of complex cultural purpose and symbolism are only part of our program, with its inevitable movement between the modern and the medieval, the familiar and the exotic, the urban and the rural, the sophisticated and the popular, and the secular and the ecclesiastic, as permeable as the boundary between those last two realms has often been over the thousand years of East Slavic and Russian civilization.

The tour is open to any, young or old, student, parent, alumnus, alumna, or friend who wishes to learn more about Russia and its fascinating history and remarkable architecture, art, literature, and music and their vital place in the modern world. No knowledge of the Russian language is necessary, since the tour will at every stage enjoy the benefit of English-speaking guides selected both for their linguistic skill and their expert knowledge of the local history and lore.

The tour organizer and leader, Judson Rosengrant, has taught Russian language, literature, and culture at Reed, the University of Southern California, and Indiana University, and, as a two-time Fulbright Senior Scholar, translation theory and practice at St. Petersburg State University. He holds graduate degrees in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Stanford University and has received post-doctoral fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, Harvard University, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is an award-winning literary and scholarly editor and translator of Russian literature and historiography, among whose current projects are an English edition of the autobiography of the twentieth-century master Alexander Solzhenitsyn and, forthcoming in April from Penguin Classics, a new translation and edition of Tolstoy's *Childhood, Boyhood, Youth*. This will be the eleventh East-European tour he has organized and led.

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mition, 1475-79), the Cathedral of the Annunciation (1484-89), and the Cathedral of the Archangel (1505-08), the burial place of the tsars until the early eighteenth century, when Peter the Great moved the government to his newly built capital of St. Petersburg and was himself interred there in its Peter and Paul Cathedral (see Day 9).

Dinner at the hotel

tory is also part of its unique meaning. Painted in Constantinople, it was

Day 7 Fri., May 11 Yasnaya Polyana-Moscow

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Transfer by coach to Moscow and the *Holiday Inn Sokolniki*, with guide

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Free time, or optional excursion with tour leader to the Chekhov Museum-

Transfer by coach from Moscow Station to the *Holiday Inn Moskovskiyevorota*, with guide

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time

Day 9 Sun., May 13 St. Petersburg

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Bus tour of the city, with guide

Nevsky Prospect, Church of the Savior on the Blood, Palace Square and the Alexander Column, the University, Rostral Columns, the *Bronze Horseman*, and Kazan Cathedral and its interior.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Excursion to the Peter and Paul Fortress and Cathedral, with guide

St. Petersburg was founded in 1703 (it is younger than Boston or New York), and the Peter and Fall Fortress, built to secure the marshy Neva delta on which the new city would eventually rise, was the first large structure to be completed. Its original earthen walls soon replaced by the granite-faced brick we see today, the fortress contains sites of great architectural and historical interest. Chief among them is the Peter and Paul Cathedral, finished in 1733 by the Italian architect Domenico Trezzini in a deliberately Western style meant to symbolize Peter the Great's fundamental reorientation of Russian culture. The cathedral contains the tombs of Peter himself and of most of the members of the Romanov dynasty who succeeded him, including Catherine the Great, Alexander I, and, after a long delay, Nicholas II and the Empress Alexandra and their children and several family retainers, all of whom were shot, burned, and buried in unmarked graves by the Bolsheviks in 1918, but not interred in the cathedral until 1998—an event of great pomp and national symbolism reasserting the deep continuities of Russian history and culture. In addition to the Cathedral, we will visit the Trubetskoy Bastion, dating from the mid-eighteenth century and used by the tsars for political prisoners, including the writers Dostoevsky and Gorky, the assassin of Alexander II, Vera Figner, and the Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time, or optional performance

As does Moscow, St. Petersburg offers a number of superb performance and concert venues, including the Mariinsky Theater, the new Mikhailovsky Ballet

eration of the French) is one of the world's greatest museums, with over three million items in its possession. A great many of them are on display in

with the Catherine II, the Great, who despised what she regarded as the building's tasteless excess). We will tour the palace interior, including the remarkable Amber Room.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: transfer by coach to the *Park Inn Veliky Novgorod*, a distance of 110 miles, with guide

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time

Novgorod (New Town), Russia's oldest city, was founded on the Volkhov River by the Varangians (a Viking tribe) in 862 as a trading center along the network of inland waterways that linked Byzantium with the northern Finns and Slavs and, via the Neva and the Baltic, with Scandinavia and ultimately Iceland, Greenland, and North America. After the collapse of Kievan Rus in the late twelfth century, Novgorod, protected by dense northern forests and impassable marshes (at least for cavalry), escaped Mongol dominion to emerge, with its sister city Pskov, as an independent republic linked to the Hanseatic League of Baltic trading partners until it was annexed by Muscovy in the fifteenth century. Because of its great age, early wealth, and fortunate freedom from Mongol attack, Novgorod has retained a remarkable ensemble of ancient buildings, including the oldest stone structure in Russia, the beautiful Cathedral of St. Sophia, begun by Byzantine and Russian craftsmen just fifty-seven years after the conversion of the Kievan princes to Christianity in 988 and still active to this day.

Day 13 Thurs., May 17 Novgorod

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Tour, with local guide, of the Novgorod kremlin (dating, in its initial log form, from 1044), including the Cathedral of St. Sophia (1045-50), the Millennium Monument (1862), and the superb museum of old Russian icons

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Continuation with local guide of our tour of Novgorod, including the ensemble known as Yaroslav's Courtyard dating from the early twelfth century, the exquisite Church of the Transfiguration of the Savior on Ilina Street (1374), the Peryn Cloister and the Church of the Nativity of the Perun Theotokos (early thirteenth century), the Yuriev Monastery by Lake Ilmen

and its Church of St. George (1119), and the nearby museum of wooden architecture, with its fascinating array of archaic domestic buildings open for interior examination.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Lecture-seminar and free time

Day 14 Fri., May 18

1944. The interiors on view are thus a restoration, although one of extraordinary skill and historical accuracy, and promise to be another trip highlight.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Free time

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time, or optional performance

Day 16 Sun., May 20 St. Petersburg-Paris-Seattle-Portland

Box breakfast

Transfer by coach to Pulkovo-2 Airport, with guide

LV LED	AF1153	07:20	A319	3h25
AR CDG		08:45		
LV CDG	AF3622	10:30	B767	11h15
AR SEA		12:45		
LV SEA	AF9686	16:00	DHC-8	0h49
AR PDX		16:49		

COSTS

In-country travel	\$4,560.00
Russian tourist visa	\$200.00
Total	\$4,760.00

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The price, which does not include airfare, is a group rate based on an enrollment of twenty passengers, and includes all lodging and registration fees, all meals (except for lunch on Day 8 and any beverages you may order to supplement our menus), airport transfers (unless you opt to arrive and depart separately from the group), all within- and between-city coach and rail service, all entrance tickets to museums and sites indicated in the program

Please note that the tour organizer and his operatives will act only as agents in regard to the transportation, hotel, and other arrangements of the tour, and that they will naturally take every professional care. However, they can accept no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity in connection with the service of any vehicle or conveyance used to carry out the tour program, or for the acts or defaults of any company or person, including the airlines and their employees and representatives, engaged in transporting the participants or in implementing the program.

INSURANCE

All participants are encouraged to purchase travel insurance. The tour has used Travelex Insurance Services over the years, and the company has provided excellent accountability and convenience. Its policies offer a number of benefits, including but not restricted to full trip-cancellation coverage (including reimbursement of any airline penalties), emergency medical and/or evacuation coverage, baggage delay or loss coverage, and supplemental flight accident insurance. Application forms and instructions for, and descriptions of, the available Travelex policies are available online. Although the tour recommends Travelex, you should, to obtain the most favorable price for your age and needs (premiums are calculated according to both), shop for other coverage. The choice of whether or not to insure some or all of your costs is up to you, but our experience over many years (we have

weeks. Please be aware too that by Russian consulate rule, your passport must be valid for at least *six months after* the expiration of your thirty-day tourist visa. If your passport will expire within that term (that is, before December 5, 2012), you must obtain a new passport or the consulate will not consider your application. Likewise, your passport must have at least one blank page to which the new visa can be affixed. If it does not, the consulate will

Payments and documents should be sent to the tour organizer at the address indicated on page 3, using Fed-Ex, UPS, or USPS Express Mail (with *signature required*, whatever the courier) for the February 6 submission to ensure safe and timely delivery. Any questions should be directed to the tour leader via phone or e-mail, as indicated on page 3, above.

RECOMMENDED READING

There are numerous guide books for Russia, some providing national coverage and others devoted to particular cities or regions. Among them, I have found the *Rough Guide* series,

2003. Orlando Figes, *Natasha's Dance: A Cultural History of Russia* (New York: Picador). An extremely well researched and highly readable account of Russian culture from the profound transformations of Peter the Great in the eighteenth century through the late Soviet 'stagnation' of Leonid Brezhnev in the twentieth.
1998. Nicholas Rzhevsky, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Russian Culture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). A handbook featuring short articles on a variety of topics.
1970. James A. Billington,

2006. Elaine Blair, *Literary St. Petersburg* (New York: The Little Bookroom). A well-written and informed guide to the nineteenth- and twentieth-century figures associated with St. Petersburg and Leningrad, and the principal sites connected with their personal and literary biographies.
1991. Victor Terras,