



# TourMagination

discovery+community

**Treasures of Russia:  
Moscow & St. Petersburg**

**June 10-17, 2019**

**Leaders: Len & Mary Friesen**



Peterhof Fountain, photo credit Sergeif

*Explore the cultural and architectural riches of Russia in St. Petersburg and Moscow and explore its Soviet past. You'll see many famous sights including the Winter Palace—once home to the tsars of Russia, Peterhof Palace and Gardens, the Kremlin, Red Square, wartime cemeteries, and stunning cathedrals. Tour storyteller Len Friesen is Professor of History at Wilfrid Laurier University. He teaches Russian history and speaks Russian fluently. Mary and Len lived in Russia during Gorbachev's time and have many stories to share.*

*For an enhanced travel experience, consider combining this tour with the Mennonite Story & Highlights of Ukraine Tour, June 1-10, 2019.*

## Itinerary

### **Monday, June 10 Moscow**

Arrive in Moscow from home cities or following the Ukraine Mennonite Heritage Tour. Settle into your hotel and enjoy a meal together with fellow tour members. Optional evening walkabout in the city to get your bearings.

### **Tuesday, June 11 Moscow**

Take a guided tour of the Kremlin Armoury—which stored weapons and royal treasures beginning in 1508 and became a museum in 1813. Today, the Armoury is home to many unique collections of Russian, Western, and Eastern European art and cultural objects, including the Imperial Crown of Russia and the ivory throne of Ivan the Terrible. This afternoon, have lunch at the famous GUM department store and explore the ancient centre of Moscow in a walking tour, including historic Red Square and Lenin's tomb. Following dinner, relax on your own or join Len and Mary on an evening tour travelling on the Moscow Metro where no station is alike.

### **Wednesday, June 12 Moscow**

Discover the beauty of the Tretyakov Gallery, which houses the greatest collection of fine Soviet-era art in the world. Stop at the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour to view their stunning worship space in this, the tallest Orthodox church in the world. At the Novodevichy Cemetery see beautifully sculpted tombstones and visit the graves of famous Russians including Anton Chekov, Raisa Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin, Stalin's wife Svetlana, and Nikita Khrushchev. This evening, you could attend the circus, go to a musical performance, or take a stroll with Len and Mary.

### **Thursday, June 13 St. Petersburg**

After a restful morning, spend the afternoon on a train to St. Petersburg. This evening, get oriented to St. Petersburg on a guided walk with Len and Mary, who have lived in and travelled to this city many times.

### **Friday, June 14 St. Petersburg**

Begin your day with a tour of the famed Winter Palace and Hermitage Museum, which boasts an impossibly large collection of paintings and artifacts housed in six striking buildings constructed in the 18-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. En route to the museum, see significant landmarks such as the statues of Nicholas I and Peter the Great. Spend the afternoon on a tour of the Peter and Paul Fortress—the original citadel of St. Petersburg and burial place of the Tsars. On the way to the Fortress, walk along the eastern tip of Vasilyevsky Island. Pass over the Trotsky Bridge and along the Summer Gardens on your return to the hotel. This evening, unwind at the hotel, or opt for an excursion to the ballet at the Imperial Winter Palace Theatre or other venue.

### **Saturday, June 15 St. Petersburg**

An exciting day awaits with a trip to Peterhof, for a guided tour of the gold-trimmed Grand Palace with its 30 plus rooms, fountains, and gardens. This afternoon, drive to the Piskaryovskoye Cemetery—an enormous memorial cemetery dedicated to those who died during the Siege of Leningrad. We will learn about its little-known connection to Russian's President Putin. There will be some optional excursions this evening.

### **Sunday, June 16 St. Petersburg**

The last full day in Russia is yours to see the city however you choose. Go back to places of interest, see something new, shop, or whatever your heart desires. Your knowledgeable tour leaders will give you plenty of recommendations.

### **Monday, June 17**

Return to your home countries with stories and insights into Russian and Soviet culture and history.

#### **Fare per person:**

CAD: Double occupancy \$4,211; Single supplement \$1,128

USD: Double occupancy \$3,240; Single supplement \$868

#### **Fare includes**

- All transportation within the tour
- Group airport transfer
- Hotel accommodations
- Entrance fees included in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, all dinners
- Expert tour leaders & knowledgeable local guides
- Gratuities for drivers, guides, and group meals

#### **Fare excludes**

- International airfare
- Airport transfers if you arrive/depart separately from main group
- All lunches
- Optional evening activities
- Tourist visa
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

#### **Insurance**

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

#### **Payments**

Rates shown are in effect 04/18. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

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