

PRIVATE CUSTOM TOURS OF ST. PETERSBURG – 2 DAY SAMPLES

ST. PETERSBURG AT YOUR LEISURE (A)

Day One

9:00	Meeting on the pier near your ship
9:00-10:00	Drive to Pushkin
10:00-11:30	Catherine’s Palace (with Amber Room), Catherine’s Park
11:30-12:30	Drive to Peterhof
12:30-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-14:30	Walking tour of the Fountain Park
14:30-15:15	Drive back to St. Petersburg
15:15-15:45	Tour of St. Petersburg Subway
16:30	Return to Ship

Optional Activities

Private Boat Ride
Gala Folk Show at Nicholas Palace
Russian Ballet Performance

Day Two

9:00	Meeting on the pier near your ship
9:00-10:00	City Tour, Grand Choral Synagogue, or Souvenir Shopping
10:00-11:00	Peter and Paul Fortress
11:15-12:00	St. Isaac’s Cathedral
12:00-12:30	Lunch break
12:45-15:30	Hermitage
16:00	Return to ship

ROLL LIKE A RUSSIAN! (B)

Day One

8:30	Meeting on the pier near your ship
8:30-10:00	Intro City Tour, Drive to Pushkin
10:00-11:45	Catherine’s Palace (with Amber Room), Catherine’s Park
12:00-13:00	Drive to Peterhof
13:00-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	Walking tour of the Fountain Park
15:00-16:00	Monplaisir Palace or Catherine Block or Catherine the Great Bath House
16:15-17:00	Hydrofoil to St. Petersburg (optional if weather permits)
17:30	Return to ship

Optional Activities

Private Boat Ride
Gala Folk Show at Nicholas Palace
Russian Ballet Performance

Day Two

8:30	Meeting on the pier near your ship
8:30-10:30	City Tour, Walking tour of Nevsky Prospect, Grand Choral Synagogue, or Souvenir Shopping
10:30-11:30	Peter and Paul Fortress
11:45-12:15	St. Isaac’s Cathedral
12:15-12:45	Lunch break
13:00-16:00	Hermitage, Gold Rooms (optional)
16:30	Return to ship

THE GRAND SLALOM (C)

Day One

7:30	Meeting on the pier near your ship
7:30-10:00	City Tour, Drive to Pushkin
10:00-11:00	Catherine’s Palace (with Amber Room), Catherine’s Park
11:15-12:15	Drive to Peterhof
12:15-12:45	Lunch break
12:45-13:45	Walking tour of the Fountain Park
13:45-14:30	Monplaisir Palace or Catherine Block or Catherine the Great Bath House
14:45-15:30	Drive back to St. Petersburg
15:30-16:15	Tour of St. Petersburg Subway
16:30-17:15	St. Isaac’s Cathedral
18:00	Return to ship

Optional Activities

Private Boat Ride
Gala Folk Show at Nicholas Palace
Russian Ballet Performance

Day Two

8:00	Meeting on the pier near your ship
8:00-10:30	City Tour, Walking tour of Nevsky Prospect, Grand Choral Synagogue, St. Nicholas Cathedral, or Souvenir Shopping
10:30-11:30	Peter and Paul Fortress
12:00-12:30	Church on Spilled Blood
12:30-13:00	Lunch break
13:15-16:30	Hermitage, Gold Rooms (optional)
17:00	Return to ship

*** These Sample Tours can be further modified to suit your interests – We can create ANY itinerary at your request!**

**** Tour starting times are flexible – We can start the tour as EARLY as your ship clears or as LATE as you wish.**

***** Unlike other tour companies, we will arrange INSIDE VISITS to all museums included in the program.**

IMPORTANT TOUR INFORMATION

❖ 100% Private Tours:

- ✓ All tours are private and you will get your personal tour guide, a professional driver and a comfortable Western vehicle for the entire duration of your visit
- ✓ You will not be joined by other tourists unless you specifically request this option and other guests arriving by your cruise ship agree to your joining their party
- ✓ Your tour guide will accompany you at all times and offer both inside and outside tours

❖ Transportation:

- ✓ Sedan (1-2 persons), van (3-6 persons), mini-bus (7-10 persons), medium bus (11-16 persons), large bus (17-25 persons), jumbo bus (26-42)
- ✓ All vehicles are Western-made (Mercedes, Audi, Volkswagen, Volvo, Setra), with air-conditioning systems and all necessary safety features in place
- ✓ All our drivers and vehicles undergo regular government health and safety tests

❖ Meals:

✓ Russian traditional lunch (\$10-\$15 per person)

- Famous Russian cuisine in a casual setting – eat where regular Russians eat (pirogi at Stoll Bar, bliny at Teremok and U Teschi Na Blinakh)
- Guests are advised to have approx. 500 rubles cash to pay on the spot

✓ Upscale Russian restaurant (\$30 - \$80 per person)

- Haute Russian cuisine served in stylish establishments (www.taleon.ru/EN/default.htm, www.palkin.ru/eng/main.htm)
- Credit cards accepted

✓ Guaranteed lunch reservation (\$20-\$35 per person)

- Tour groups are advised to reserve lunches in advance to avoid unpleasant surprises of packed cafes in the middle of the high season

❖ Payment:

- ✓ We accept major credit cards (VISA, MasterCard)
- ✓ Deposit is not required but may be needed at time of booking to prepay museum tickets (~20-30% of tour price depending on your museums and /or optional activities choice)
- ✓ Balance can be paid upon arrival by cash or credit card

❖ Cancellation Policy:

- ✓ No penalty (100% refund) if cancelled no later than 12 business days prior to the tour starting date
- ✓ 40% of tour price penalty if cancelled no later than 6 business days prior to the tour starting date
 - We will prepay all museum fees and other expenses 12 business days before your arrival and these charges are non-refundable for us
- ✓ 75% of tour price penalty if no-show or cancelled 5 business days prior to tour starting date
- ✓ In case of partial cancellations resulting in reduction of the initial group size, canceling party may not receive full refund as provided above. The reason is such cancellations make per person tour price for the remaining group members more expensive and it is against our policy to raise tour prices at the last minute. Refunds will only be entertained in case the remaining group members do not object to paying more per person as a result of such cancellations.

DETAILED SIGHTSEEING INFORMATION

City Highlights Tour



During this fascinating tour you will see many of the sights that made St. Petersburg famous. Your tour guide will take you along Nevsky Prospect, the city's main avenue, the Winter Palace, the Admiralty, the Basil Island, Egyptian Sphinxes, Bronze Horseman, Smolny Institute, Cruiser Aurora, the Field of Mars, Church on the Spilled Blood, the Arts Square, and many other renowned sights. Multiple photo stops at your request are provided.

Peter and Paul Fortress



Your tour will then proceed to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the foundation of which is considered the birthday of St. Petersburg. Located on an island, the Fortress served as a prison in olden days, and nowadays is a Museum of History of St. Petersburg. With your guide you will view Traitor's Gate, the Trubetskoi Bastion where many famous political prisoners were kept, the Mint, and visit Peter and Paul Cathedral, the burial place of the Romanov Royal Family.

St. Isaac's Cathedral



St. Isaac's Cathedral is considered to be one of the world's most ornate churches. It is lavishly decorated with many kinds of marble, semi-precious stones, and its huge dome is covered with real gold.

This tour gives you an opportunity to explore the interior of the Cathedral and to learn about the fascinating history of its construction. Photo-taking is highly recommended!

The Cathedral of Our Savior on Spilled Blood



The Cathedral also known as Church on the Spilled Blood is one of the best known symbols of St. Petersburg.

The Cathedral was designed by Father Ignaty and the architect Parland to mark the spot where Alexander II was assassinated by the terrorists of the People's Will on March 1, 1881. The construction took over 14 years and was paid for entirely by the donations of the Russian people. Unlike other Russian cathedrals, the Church on the Spilled Blood never served as a regular church and has always been a museum.

DETAILED SIGHTSEEING INFORMATION (CONT'D)

Hermitage Museum



Located in five buildings along the Neva Embankment, the Hermitage is the largest museum in Russia. Its vast collections contain millions of exhibits rivaling those of the Louvre and Prado museums. Please note we can provide both a **General Tour** and a **Thematic Tour** for a more in-depth coverage of those art collections which interest you most (advance notice is required).

Catherine's Palace



This magnificent palace located in the suburbs of St. Petersburg was the favorite residence of Empress Catherine the Great. The palace strikes the visitor with its gorgeous baroque architecture and the sumptuous decoration of its many interiors. Of particular note are the Grand Hall, the Marble Staircase, the Chinese Study, and the world-famous **Amber Room** with its walls decorated with pieces of real amber.

Park and Gardens of the Catherine's Palace



During this refreshing walk your guide will take you around the picturesque area surrounding the Catherine's Palace. You will view the snow-white Cameron Gallery, the Small Hermitage where Catherine the Great and her lovers were waited on by deaf servants, stroll through the Palace Gardens, and enjoy the idyllic views of the nearby lake.

Fountain Park of Peterhof



Peterhof is one of the most spectacular summer residences thanks to the uniqueness of the fountains and cascades of water decorating its parks. Peter the Great wanted Peterhof to rival Versailles near Paris, and so an exuberant collection of various fountains and water effects was set up on this territory. With your guide you will view the most interesting sights of the area, including the Grand Cascade of Water, the Samson Fountain, the Monplaisir Palace and Gardens, Joke Fountains, the Chessboard Cascade, and other unique creations. Guests should be able to walk approximately 1.5 miles on this tour.

DETAILED SIGHTSEEING INFORMATION (CONT'D)

Monplaisir Palace



Monplaisir Palace is as old as Peterhof itself. The history of the whole palace and park ensemble began with the construction of Monplaisir. The palace was Peter the Great's favourite creation, and it was he who gave it this name. The Emperor himself chose the site for the construction and sketched the layout of the building. It is hardly possible to find any other place where his personal habits and tastes could be so strongly felt.

Catherine's Block



In 1748-1749 a new palace, larger than Monplaisir, was built for Elizabeth Petrovna. The new wing housed private apartments of Catherine II, then Grand Duchess Yekaterina Alexeyevna, who lived there for 15 years in the court of Elizabeth. It was from here that Yekaterina Alexeyevna made her first steps to glory. On June 28, 1762 the wife of the Russian Emperor Peter III left her Peterhof house to come back a day after the coup d'etat, accompanied by the Guards as the Empress, and to win later the name of Catherine the Great.

Bath House of Catherine the Great



Attached to Monplaisir's eastern wing is the Bath House, a single-storey building with a tent-shaped hipped roof. Recently restored, the Bath House houses private swimming pool of Catherine the Great, cold-water bathrooms and a Russian steam-bath, as well as the Toilet Room and the Entrance Room. Interestingly, the swimming pool is equipped with lifting bottom and an inlet of sea water, and a tall gilded column thrusting fresh water from the top (Catherine's famous trick fountain).

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Gold Rooms VIP Tour



We can arrange a private **arranged exclusively for you** guided visit to the Gold Rooms at the Hermitage Museum. This special exposition houses the most precious exhibits of the museum, including rare and antique jewelry, diplomatic gifts to the Russian crown, and Scythian Treasures. **There are no Faberge Eggs in the Gold Rooms.**

- **Prices:** \$50pp (2 persons), \$35pp (3-4 persons), \$20pp (5-12 persons) – **EXCLUSIVE ENTRY PRICES**
- Gold Rooms VIP Tour must be **booked no later than the 15th of the month preceding your visit.**
- Guests are advised to notify us of their intention to view the Gold Rooms as soon as possible.

Jewish Heritage Highlights



St. Petersburg is known for its Jewish cultural traditions and we can arrange an optional visit to the **Grand Choral Synagogue** located in the Jewish Quarter of the city. You will be able to explore one of the most ornate synagogues in Europe and have an opportunity to talk to representatives of the local Jewish community. A visit to the **Small Synagogue** used for daily services will follow thereafter.

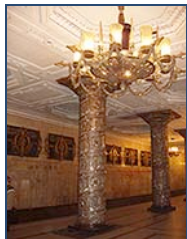
Souvenir Shopping Opportunity



If you would like to take home a souvenir from Russia, we will be delighted to take you either to one of St. Petersburg's better souvenir stores or to a local flea market. Both carry a wide selection of Russian souvenirs, with the stores offering higher quality merchandise which will keep its shape much longer. For those interested in seeing the way ordinary Russians procure their groceries, a visit to the Rynok (farmers' market) can also be arranged.

- **Time required:** from 30 minutes to 1 hr depending on your shopping habits.
- **How to book:** Just let us know the approximate amount of time you require for shopping. The time required will be added to the duration of your tour.

St. Petersburg Subway Tour



Subway (or "Metro" in Russian) is the preferred mode of transportation in St. Petersburg. You can use subway to get to most parts of the city in about 30 minutes. With 4 lines and over 50 stations, St. Petersburg Metro is the second largest underground transportation facility in Russia. It is also the deepest subway system in the world, as well as one of the most ornate. Trains run from 5:30am till 1:00am and one ride will cost you 14 rubles irrespective of the distance traveled.