

TWO WEEKS IN ... 2012



Two Weeks in St Petersburg and Novgorod

with Professor Alexei Leporc and Helen Gavrilova

1 – 14 October 2012 (14 days)



Tour Leaders

Professor Alexei Leporc and Helen Gavrilova

Professor Alexei Leporc is a Curator in the Department of Western European Art at the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg. As well as his curatorial responsibilities, he is also Professor of 15th – 20th century West European art and architecture at St Petersburg Europe University. Since 1990 he has held various research and teaching positions at Vienna's Institute of Art History, in Munich's Central Institute of Art History and the Berlin Kulturstiftung der Laender. He has accompanied several high level visits to Russia over the years for The World Monuments Fund, The Guggenheim Museum, The Victoria and Albert Museum and The Courtauld Institute and National Arts Collections Fund. He accompanied a highly successful visit for the Oxford University Society in 2008.

Helen Gavrilova has twenty five years of experience as an English speaking tour guide, tour director, Russian language interpreter and translator. She was educated at the State Lenigrad University Faculty of Foreign Languages in English and English literature, USSR State Committee for Foreign Tourism Advanced courses for Guides/Interpreters and has completed advanced courses in International Tourism, Management, Economy, Politics, Arts and History. Working with special interest groups, corporate executives and government officials including British Royal Ballet, BBC 1 film crews and several world renowned actors.

Two Weeks in St Petersburg and Novgorod

Founded by Peter the Great in 1703 as Russia's 'Window to the West' and embellished by the later Tsars to rival the grand European capitals, St Petersburg is architecturally one of the best preserved cities of the 18th and 19th centuries and one of the great artistic, musical and literary capitals of the world.

Artistically, St Petersburg is epitomised by the extraordinary richness of the Hermitage and Russian museums, and the grandeur of the imperial 'summer palaces' of Peterhof, Catherine and Pavlovsk located outside the city, all of which you will visit. Musically, St Petersburg is home to the famous Mariinsky Theatre, the Philharmonia and the Mikhailovsky Theatre, where you will attend opera, ballet and concert performances. You will also go backstage at the Mariinsky, spend an afternoon at a ballet school, experience the renaissance of the Russian Orthodox Church and delve into the rich literary heritage of St Petersburg.

To introduce you to this extraordinary city will be your tour leader, Helen Gavrilova, and guest lecturer Prof Alexei Leporc, curator in the department of Western European art at the Hermitage. Following ten full days in St Petersburg, you will spend two days in the charming, nearby city of Novgorod, one of the earliest capitals of 'Old Rus' and rich in medieval art and architecture.

NB. We have specially chosen the 'shoulder season' of early October for this tour as the museums will be free of the summer tourist crowds, hotel prices are more favourable, the opera, music and ballet seasons will have just commenced and the autumn temperatures will be mild, though you should be prepared for cooler evenings and the possibility of some early snow falls.

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Monday 1 Oct 2012 Arrive St Petersburg

On arrival at St Petersburg (airport or station) you will be met and transferred to your hotel, perfectly located on St Isaac's Square in the historic centre of the city.

This evening join Prof Alexei Leporc and Helen Gavrilova for an introductory lecture, followed by a welcome dinner with your fellow travellers. (D)

Tue 2 Oct St Petersburg

Join Helen for a full day tour which will introduce you to this magnificent city, first planned by Peter the Great and later embellished by the Tsars as a great European capital. Begin with a visit to the **Peter and Paul Fortress** built by Peter the Great in 1703 to defend Russia from Swedish attack. Later the fortress became a garrison and notorious high security political jail, whose inmates included Peter's own rebellious son Alexei, Dostoyevsky, Gorky, Trotsky and Lenin's older brother, Alexander. Visit the impressive **Peter and Paul Cathedral**, the burial place of all the Russian Emperors and Empresses from Peter the Great to Alexander III. The bones of the last Tsar, Nicholas II, and his family were laid to rest here in 1998. Continue to **Smolny Cathedral**, a fine example of Baroque architecture by the Italian architect Rastrelli (also responsible for the Winter Palace and Catherine's Palace).

After lunch, enjoy a walking tour along (and off) **Nevesky Prospect**, St Petersburg's main avenue through the historical centre of the city. In the very early days it was the start of the roadway to the ancient city of Novgorod, and quickly became adorned with major palaces, department stores, hotels, restaurants, churches, squares and bridges. (BL)

Wed 3 Oct St Petersburg

Today begins with an introductory lecture on the **'Hermitage Museum'** by Alexei, followed by the first of three visits to this world famous museum. Located in the former **Winter Palace**, the official residence of the Tsars, and the Small and Large Hermitages, the museum houses the vast collection of artworks built up by the Tsars, along with the collections of several former leading aristocratic families.

Following the morning guided tour, the rest of the day is free to stay on in the Hermitage Museum at your leisure.

Tonight, enjoy the first of three included performances at either the Mariinsky or Mikhailovsky theatres (opera or ballet) or at the Philharmonia (orchestra concert). Performance details for the 2012 / 13 season will not be announced until mid-2012. In addition to the three included performances you may choose to purchase additional optional performances. (B)

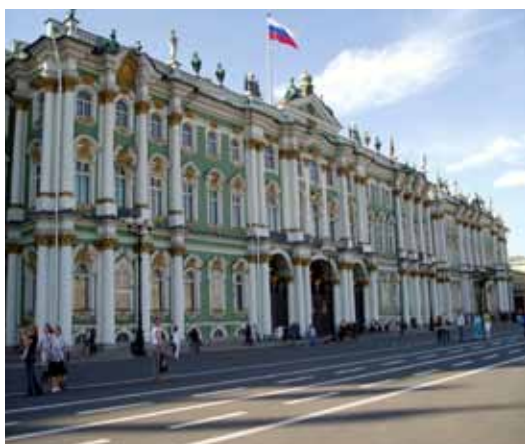
Thu 4 Oct St Petersburg – Peterhof – St Petersburg

Along with Alexei and Helen, journey out of St Petersburg to **Peterhof** with commanding views over the Gulf of Finland. Inspired by Versailles, this series of palaces and gardens was laid out on the orders of Peter the Great and completed by his daughter, the Empress Elizabeth. Visit the Grand Palace with its numerous gardens, the summer palace Monplaisir, the Royal baths and kitchens which detail everyday life of the Imperial family. Enjoy a picnic lunch and afterwards more time at this famous UNESCO World Heritage Site. (BL)

Fri 5 Oct St Petersburg

Join Alexei for a morning lecture on 'Russian Music', followed by a full-day exploration of the rich musical and theatrical heritage of St Petersburg. Visit the cemetery of the **Alexander Nevsky Monastery**, where many famous Russian musicians are buried, including Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and Glinka. Continue to the house museum of great opera singer Feodor Chaliapin. The restored museum exhibits a collection of theatrical costumes, photos, and documents relating to Chaliapin's life and creative work and also Russian art pieces from the end of the 19th to beginning of the 20th centuries.

After lunch enjoy a backstage tour of the **Mariinsky Theatre**, which can trace its history back to 1783. Named after the Empress Maria Alexandrovna (wife of Tsar Alexander II) the present building and its beautiful 1,625-seat auditorium opened in 1860 and became the preeminent music theatre of late 19th century Russia, where many of the stage masterpieces of Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov received their premieres. The Mariinsky Theatre is home to the Mariinsky Ballet, Mariinsky Opera and Mariinsky Orchestra. Since Yuri Temirkanov's retirement in 1988, the conductor Valery Gergiev has served as its general director.



Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg



Hermitage Interior



Mikhailovsky Palace, St Petersburg

Subject to performance schedules, this evening you will attend the second of your included performances at the Mariinsky Theatre, Mikhailovsky Theatre or Philharmonia. (BL)

Sat 6 Oct St Petersburg – Pushkin – St Petersburg

Drive to the town of Pushkin, formerly known as 'Tsar's Village' (Tsarkoye Selo), renowned for its remarkable ensemble of palaces and parks. It is particularly famous for its impressive baroque **Catherine Palace**, where Empress Catherine the Great lived and died. Designed by the Italian architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli (Winter Palace, Smolny Cathedral) the palace was almost totally destroyed during World War II, but has risen like a phoenix from the ashes due to an extensive restoration program undertaken since the war. Most of the restored interiors date back to the time of Empress Elizabeth, the daughter of Peter the Great, though there are some early 19th century interiors too.

Pass by the nearby **Aleksandrovsky Palace**, the favoured home of the last Tsar, Nicholas II (not open to the public). It was from here that the whole Imperial family left in 1917 to travel to Yekaterinburg, where they were brutally murdered by revolutionaries.

After lunch at a typical Russian restaurant, continue to the nearby neo-classical **Pavlovsk Palace**, the residence of Emperor Paul I, the son of Catherine the Great. Designed by the Scotsman Charles Cameron, the estate's magnificent palace sits on a hill overlooking an English-style landscaped park, with a beautiful river running through it. (BL)

Sun 7 Oct St Petersburg

This morning attend a Russian Orthodox service at **St Nicholas Cathedral**, also known as the Sailors' Cathedral. The walls of the cathedral are decorated with scenes from the history of the Russian Navy. With its golden Baroque spires, domes and the bell tower, St Nicholas Cathedral is one of a very few cathedrals in the city that was not closed in Soviet times.

Continue to the **Church of Our Saviour on the Spilled Blood** (Resurrection of Christ Church), built in between 1883 and 1907 on the site where Emperor Alexander II was assassinated in 1881. Built in the flamboyant Russian Revival style, both the interior and exterior of the church are richly

decorated with colourful mosaics, designed and created by the most prominent Russian artists of the day. Afternoon at leisure to further explore St Petersburg on your own. (B)

Mon 8 Oct St Petersburg

Join Alexei for a lecture on 'Russian Art' followed by a visit to the **Russian Museum**, housed in the Mikhailovsky Palace, built between 1819 and 1825 for Grand Duke Mikhail, the brother of Alexander I and Nicholas I. Established in 1895 under the decree of the Emperor Nicholas II and opened in 1898, the Russian Museum is today the world's largest collection of Russian fine arts from the 10th to the 20th centuries, a famous restoration centre and one of Russia's major cultural, educational and research centres. (B)

Tue 9 Oct St Petersburg

Join Alexei for a second lecture on the 'Hermitage Museum', followed by a morning guided visit to the museum. The afternoon is free to stay on in the Hermitage Museum at your leisure. (B)

Wed 10 Oct St Petersburg

Today you will discover St Petersburg's rich literary heritage. Begin with a visit to the **Alexander Pushkin Memorial Museum and Apartment**, dedicated to Russia's most celebrated poet, where he lived between 1836 and 1837, and died after being mortally wounded in a dramatic duel. On a wave of nationwide grief for the untimely death of this major Russian literary figure, Pushkin's apartment was carefully preserved and remains a fine example of a nobleman's residence of the 1830s. See the study of the great poet of 'Eugene Onegin' and 'The Queen of Spades', both of which were later turned into operas by Tchaikovsky.

After lunch, continue to **Dostoyevsky's Apartment**, where the writer lived between 1878 and 1881 and which is filled with memorabilia relating to his life and work. Dostoyevsky based many of his stories and novels in the Vladimirsky region of the city where his apartment is located. Finish with a visit to the **House of Anna Akhmatova**, one of the greatest of Russia's 20th century poets. (BL)



St Catherine's Palace, Pushkin



Mariinsky Theatre, St Petersburg

Thu 11 Oct

St Petersburg

Enjoy a third visit to the Hermitage Museum, in order to visit the **Gold Room**, a Treasure gallery which houses gold jewellery of ancient nomadic tribes of Russia and jewellery pieces from the Gallery of Jewellery of the Imperial Hermitage created in more recent times

Following lunch, visit the **Jacobson Ballet School**, named in honour of the Soviet dancer, choreographer and ballet master Leonid Jacobson (1904-1975). Here students begin learning at the age of 6 or 7. Sit in on a class where you will observe the demanding exercises and routine required to become a professional dancer.

Subject to performance schedules, this evening you will attend the third of your included performances at the Mariinsky Theatre, Mikhailovsky Theatre or Philharmonia. (BL)

Fri 12 Oct

St Petersburg - Novgorod

Depart St Petersburg for Novgorod (approx 160 km, 2 – 3 hrs). Situated on the ancient trade route between Central Asia and northern Europe, Novgorod is among the oldest cities of Russia, and was Russia's first capital in the 9th century. Surrounded by churches and monasteries, it was a centre for Orthodox spirituality as well as Russian architecture. Its medieval monuments and the 14th-century frescoes of Theophanes the Greek (Andrei Rublev's teacher) illustrate the development of its remarkable architecture and cultural creativity.

After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the **Kremlin**, situated on the left bank of the Volkhov River. The current fortress was built between 1484 and 1490 in the wake of Grand Prince Ivan III's conquest of the city in 1478. Continue to **St Sophia Cathedral**, the 38-metre high, five domed, stone cathedral. Then visit the **Novgorod State Museum**, one of the world's largest expositions of Russian icon painting, displaying around 260 works. (BLD)

Sat 13 Oct

Novgorod

Following a morning lecture by Alexei on 'Novgorod', drive to the **Yuriev Monastery** ('St George'). According to legend, the monastery was founded in the 11th century by Yaroslav the Wise and is one of Russia's oldest. The monastery was ravaged during Soviet rule. Five of its six churches were destroyed by 1928 and the monastery was closed in 1929. During World War II, the buildings were occupied by the German and Spanish armed forces, and were seriously damaged. In 1991 the monastery was returned to the Russian Orthodox Church, and parts of it have been renovated since then.

After lunch, visit the nearby outdoor **Museum of Wooden Architecture**. The houses here have been dismantled in their original locations, brought to the museum, reassembled and restored to recreate streets from old Russian villages.

This evening celebrate the conclusion of your 'Two Weeks in St Petersburg and Novgorod' with a special farewell dinner. (BLD)

Sun 14 Oct

Depart Novgorod

Morning at leisure.

Late morning departure from Novgorod directly for St Petersburg Airport (approx 2.5 - 3 hr). Arrival by 13.30 in time for late afternoon flights on Finnair (currently at 16.25) or British Airways (18.05) or Emirates (18.50). NB. Transfer time may be adjusted according to final flight schedules. (B)



Church of the Spilled Blood, St Petersburg



Kremlin, Novgorod



Museum of Wooden Architecture, Novgorod

TOUR PRICES ...

Per person, twin-share	AUD 7,150
Single supplement*	AUD 1,400
Tour Code	TWO WKS IN STP
Deposit (per person)	AUD 500
Final Payment Due	2 August 2012

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

SUGGESTED AIRLINES

QANTAS / BA (via London), QANTAS / FINNAIR (via Helsinki) and EMIRATES (via Dubai).

Please contact Renaissance Tours for fares and assistance with flight reservations.

TOUR PRICES INCLUDE

- Accommodation in centrally located 4-star hotels with daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Wines with dinners.
- Individual transfers on arrival (01 Oct)
- Group transfer Novgorod - St Petersburg Airport on departure (14 Oct). Arrival at airport at 13.30, in time for flights departing 16.30.
- A-reserve ticket to three opera, music or ballet performances
- Comprehensive sightseeing, visits to galleries and attractions including entrance fees as per itinerary
- Comfortable air-conditioned coach transportation
- Lectures and talks with your tour leader and guest lecturer throughout
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (1 piece per person)
- Visa for Russia

DO NOT INCLUDE

- International airfares
- Drinks with lunches
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, taxis etc.
- Airport portorage
- Travel insurance

YOUR HOTELS ...



Angleterre
St Petersburg
★★★★



Park Inn
Novgorod
★★★★

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.



Palace Bridge, St Petersburg

Terms and Conditions

How to Book

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit of \$500 per person. Upon receipt of your Booking Form and deposit, you will receive confirmation of your place from Renaissance Tours.

Deposit / Final Payments

Deposit (at time of booking) AUD500

Your deposit is used to pay supplier deposits and is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation. Your final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit. We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

Payment by cash, cheque, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. A 3% service charge applies for payment by American Express and Diners Club.

Cancellation & Refunds

You may cancel the booking at any time. Written notification is essential even if verbal notification of an intention to cancel has been given. Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to the charges shown below, airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	forfeit of deposit (includes any flight deposit paid)
59 - 45 days	25% of tour cost
44 - 31 days	50% of tour cost
30 - 15 days	75% of tour cost
Less than 15 days	100% of tour cost

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

Forced Cancellations

We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees.

No compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

Passports, Visas and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to be in possession of a passport valid for 6 months after the date of your return to Australia. All visitors to Russia require a visa and Renaissance Tours will arrange your visa. We will require your passport from time of final payment (60 days prior to tour commencement) until approximately one month prior.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide

the following information no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel:

- a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- next of kin emergency contact

Fitness and Participation

While our tours do not require a special level of fitness, for the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 2-3 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

If you (or we) have any doubts about your ability to participate in your chosen tour, you may be required to have a doctor's appraisal. This would require a doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour and provide you with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

Terms & Conditions

You can find a copy of the full terms & conditions attached to the Renaissance Tours booking form. They can also be found on our website or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.



Peter and Paul Fortress, St Petersburg.



Russian Museum, St Petersburg.



*Cover image: Peterhof Palace, St Petersburg
Back page image: Saint Sophia Cathedral, Novgorod.*

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Tours

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