



Safe Injection Global Network Annual Meeting 13-15 October 2008, Moscow, Russian Federation



POST TOUR IN SAINT-PETERSBURG GENERAL INFORMATION

To reserve the Post Tour please complete the Post Tour Reservation Form and send it to Academservise before 1 October 2008. Committee by e-mail roxana@acase.ru or by fax +7 (495) 662-43-52

Post tour will be arranged in case no less than 15 people will reserve this tour.

SAINT – PETERSBURG



St.Petersburg is a city of extraordinary beauty and rich history. Founded on a small island in the mouth of the Neva river by Peter the Great in 1703, St.Petersburg soon became the capital of Russia and achieved its fame as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Traditional Russian art of building and classical European architectural styles combined harmoniously to give St.Petersburg its unique appeal, create an incomparable and distinctive appearance which makes it so unlike any other city.

St.Petersburg was built to a plan along the marshy banks of the Neva river which can be considered the main “street” of the city, dividing it into two parts: Northern and Southern; and forming numerous islands with fascinating embankments and bridges in its delta.

Now St.Petersburg, occupying the area of more than 5 million people, is the second after Moscow biggest scientific and cultural centre of Russia, its biggest sea port. Many important waterways cross in St.Petersburg including the White Sea Channel and the Volga-Baltic Channel which links the Volga river with the Caspian Sea.

Today’s St.Petersburg is a popular travel destination. In more than 50 museums, existing in the city, there displayed masterpieces possessing a world-wide fame; its theatres are opened every night to charm everybody with the magical music by Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Borodin, Prokofiev and Glinka; its modern or recently renovated hotels are ready to welcome tourists and businessmen.

SAINT - PETERSBURG CITY TOUR



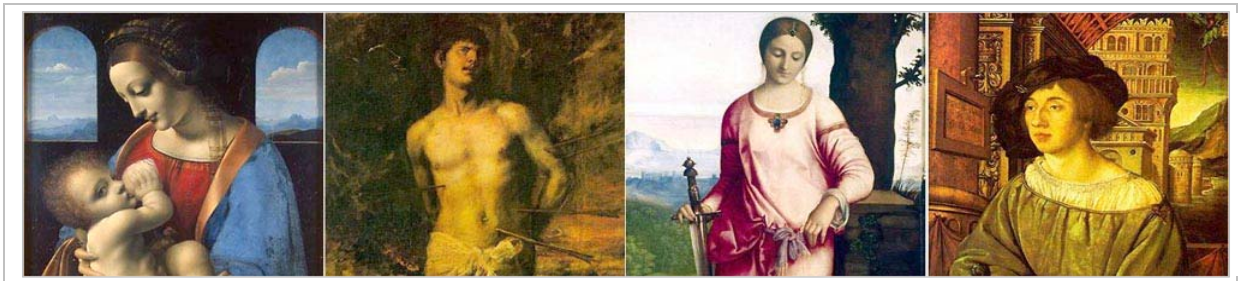
St.Petersburg is not only a city of 42 islands, 65 rivers and canals and 420 bridges, but also a city of beautiful architectural ensembles: the Palace Square, the Square of Arts, St. Isaak’s Square, Theatre Square, Ostrovsky Square, Field of Mars and Summer Garden, Peter-and-Paul Fortress and the spit of the Vasilievsky Island – these are just a few examples of gems decorating Russia’s most European city and giving it its unique personality.

PETER-AND-PAUL FORTRESS



The fortress was founded in 1703 by Peter the Great and was called St.Petersburg. later this name was transferred to the city that grew around its walls and the fortress was named after St. Peter-and-Paul cathedral constructed on its territory. The fortress was designed by the architect Domenico Tresini as a military fortification, but soon it lost its military significance and became the first political prison of Russia in 1872. St. Peter-and-Paul cathedral constructed in 1733 in early baroque style became the burial ground for almost all the members of the Romanov family starting with Peter the Great. Prince Vladimir Kirillovitch Romanov, who died in France in 1992, and the last Russian Tsar Nicholas II were buried there too. Gilded spire of the cathedral crowned with the angel holding the cross is the city’s well-known landmark.

THE HERMITAGE



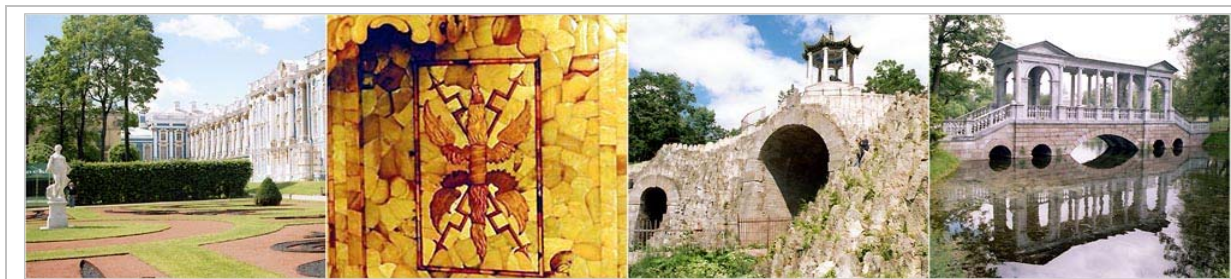
In 1988 the Hermitage was entered into the Guinness Book of Records as the largest art gallery in the world. It was founded in 1764 by Catherine the Great who bought the first 225 paintings for the private museum and decoration of the palace. The museum was opened to the public in the 19th century. Now it houses one of the world’s largest collections of art containing about 3 million items from prehistoric to modern times. Magnificent works of art embracing prehistoric culture, Egyptian art, the art of Antiquity, Scythian gold, applied art, and the great collections of Western-European paintings are displayed on the magnificent background of the palace interiors in the 400 halls of the

museum. Collection of the Spanish art is second only to the one of Prado in Madrid, and collection of the French art is the largest outside France. Among the masterpieces of the Hermitage there are paintings by Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Titian, Velasquez, El Greco, Rubens, Van Dyck, Picasso and many other famous artists and sculptors. The Hermitage Art Gallery occupies 5 buildings. The buildings of the museum, by themselves, are architectural chef d'oeuvres: the Winter Palace — former royal residence designed by Rastrelli in baroque style and built in the middle of the 18th century, Small Hermitage and Old Hermitage designed in the early classical style, the Hermitage Theatre connected with the Old Hermitage by the arch, and the New Hermitage constructed in the middle of the 19th century.

NIKOLAEVSKY PALACE

The place was built in 1853-1861 to a design by the architect Andrei Stakensneider for the Grand Duke Nicholas, the third son of the Emperor Nicholas I. The interiors of the palace are especially interesting because they represent an exquisite blend of the renaissance, baroque and classical styles. Thirty years later the heirs of the Grand Duke sold the palace to the state and in 1894 it was presented to the Kseninsky Girls' Institute. The institute was supported by prominent citizens of St.Petersburg, among them was Karl Faberge, the celebrated jeweler. Today spectacular evening performances are held in the palace. Every night you can enjoy a wonderful folklore show and cocktail in the White hall during intermission.

PUSHKIN (Tsarskoe Selo)



Construction of the royal summer residence in Tsarskoe Selo started at the beginning of the 18th century when Peter the Great presented the lands located 25 kilometres south of St.Petersburg to his second wife Catherine. The first palace was built to a design by Braunstein. In 1752 the palace was expanded and redesigned by Rastrelli in baroque style. The palace we see today is one of the best creations of the architect. Luxurious palace interiors are decorated with mirrors, moulding, paintings and fine gilded carvings. Great Hall (Throne Room) is especially impressive: numerous windows and mirrors framed with gilded carving, beautiful parquet floor and painted ceiling create atmosphere of solemnity and magnificence. Another fascinating interior is that of the Picture Gallery containing works by West-European artists of the 17th and 18th centuries. Famous Amber Room stolen by the Nazi during the World War II is almost completely recreated by the Russian restorers. The palace is surrounded by the beautiful park designed in French style.

ST. ISAAK'S CATHEDRAL



Former principal cathedral of ST. Petersburg, constructed in the middle of the 19th century to a design by a French architect Montferrand, took 40 years to be built. The interior of the cathedral is richly decorated with 14 different kinds of marble, semi-precious stones, mosaics, paintings and sculptures. It is the 4th biggest dome construction in the world. About 100 kilos of gold was spent to gild its dome. 48 monolithic granite columns decorate its porticoes. In 1931 mosaic museum was opened in the cathedral, and since the last 2 years religious services were held in it on important Christian holidays.

THE CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR ON THE BLOOD



Designed by the architect Parland and built in 1907 as a memorial church to honour Russian emperor Alexander II, just on the spot of crucial terrorist attempt upon him, this museum-monument is a sample of "Russian style" architecture and decorative art at the edge of the XIX-XX centuries. Five domes of the church are covered with enamel. Mosaic attire of the church (over 7000 sq.m.) was designed by 30 artists, among them were Vasnetsov, Nesterev, Ryabushkin, Belyaev, Kharlamov.

MARIINSKY OPERA AND BALLET HOUSE



It is one of the biggest and oldest music theatres in Russia. It dates back to 1783. The opera and ballet companies of this 200-year-old theatre are world-famous. The construction of the theatre building was completed in 1859 (architect A. Kavos). The theatre was named after the wife of Alexander II (Maria). Operas and ballets written by the great Russian composers were put on the stage of the theatre. The performances here featured such brilliant world famous stars as E.Lavronskaya, F.Shalyapin, A. Pavlova, M. Fokin and G. Ulanova, ect.

Valeri Gergiev, one of the best orchestra conductors in the world, is now the chief producer of the theatre. If you go to the opera you will surely enjoy splendid singing, magnificent costumes and scenery, and brilliant orchestra. The ballet repertoire consists of Marius Petipa's stage versions of classical Russian ballets like Tchaikovsky's "Swan lake", "Sleeping Beauty", "Nutcracker", ect.

POST TOUR PROGRAMM

15-18 OCTOBER 2008

15 October

23:00 Transfer to the railway station
23:55 Departure from Moscow to St. Petersburg, 1 class ticket

16 October

07:55 Arrival to St. Petersburg
Transfer to the hotel "Arbat Nord", accommodation
Breakfast at the hotel
10:00 City tour, include visit Peter & Paul Fortress
17:00 Back to the hotel

EVENING OPTIONAL TOUR: Dinner with Folklore show at Nickolaevsky Palace

17 October

Breakfast at the hotel
09:00 Departure to Pushkin city
Visit Catherine Palace, including Amber Room, Garden
14:00 Back to the city
15:00 Visit St. Isaac's cathedral, Savior on the blood church
17:00 Back to hotel

EVENING OPTIONAL TOUR: Performance at Mariinski Theatre

18 October

Breakfast at the hotel
12:00 Check out from the hotel
Transfer to the airport

*****END OF TOUR PACKAGE*****

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