



# ST. PETERSBURG

*An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience*

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY®

*Traveling Aggies*

**AUG. 23-31, 2015**

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In St. Petersburg, Russia's intellectual and cultural capital, elegance is paramount. The home of czars and artists alike, Peter the Great's masterpiece city embodies the majesty of its 300-year history in a carefully conceived arrangement of golden spires, royal estates, venerable museums and dazzling theaters. Many monumental buildings were designed by Italian architects, and Russia's window to the West evokes a distinctly European character. It is fitting that Carl Fabergé designed his imperial eggs here, for with its baroque and neoclassical landmarks built on islands connected by drawbridges, St. Petersburg is as enchanting as a jewel.

**Above:** Church of Our Savior on Spilled Blood



**"EVERYTHING (IN ST. PETERSBURG) IS ON A VAST AND COLOSSAL SCALE, RESEMBLING THAT OF THE EMPIRE ITSELF."**

SIR NATHANIEL WILLIAM WRAXALL,  
ENGLISH AUTHOR, 1751-1831,  
"A TOUR ROUND THE BALTIC," 1775

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay in a prime location next to St. Isaac's Cathedral at the **Anleterre Hotel**, which has hosted Tolstoy and other famous poets and writers.
- Go **backstage at one of Russia's storied theaters** and witness firsthand what makes St. Petersburg one of the world's greatest capitals of culture.
- Visit the dazzling 18th-century **Catherine Palace** and admire the **Amber Room**, meticulously re-created to reflect its pre-World War II grandeur.
- Delight in the beauty of the **Palace of Pavlovsk**, set amid romantic ponds, classical pavilions and a verdant forest.
- Receive a guaranteed early entrance to the **State Hermitage Museum**, ensuring more time to admire the extensive art collections.
- Enjoy a performance at the **State Hermitage Theater**, a magnificent setting for an authentic taste of Russian performing arts.
- Enhance your journey with **educational lectures** on Russian literature, art, music, dance and politics.

## Alumni Campus Abroad® Advantages

*The unique, value-added features of Alumni Campus Abroad® programs deliver an outstanding educational travel experience.*

- **A carefully selected hotel** with comfortable accommodations is the perfect base for exploring the region's renowned landmarks and off-the-beaten-path treasures while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in the local culture and lifestyle.
- **Groups are limited to 36 travelers** to maximize your travel experience.
- **An extensive meal plan** is seasoned with traditional specialties.
- **Knowledgeable guides** lead your excursions and **local experts** present insightful educational lectures.
- **An experienced Campus Director** ensures attentive service for the duration of your stay.
- **All gratuities** for excursion guides and drivers are included.



*Mariinsky Theater*

## Howdy, Ags!

Join us on this exclusive program to beautiful St. Petersburg. Delve into the history of Russia's cultural capital as you walk in the footsteps of Russian greats Pushkin, Dostoevsky and Tchaikovsky. Attend a performance at the Hermitage Theater, sail the Neva River on a dinner cruise and visit historic baroque and neoclassical landmarks.

Travel experts have meticulously planned this exciting program. Enjoy preferred access to popular attractions, including the State Hermitage Museum, and an exclusive educational program that will enhance your appreciation of the people and the culture. Our educational program features expert local speakers and is the hallmark of our Alumni Campus Abroad programs.

This trip combines the security, ease and value of group travel with opportunities for independent exploration. You will enjoy the camaraderie of traveling with a group and, during your free time, feel the thrill of making your own discoveries! Space on this amazing journey is limited to 36 travelers. Be sure to make your reservations today.

Gig 'em!

*Jennifer Bohac*

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.  
Director, Travel Programs  
The Association of Former Students

# ST. PETERSBURG

## CITY OF THE CZARS

Experience St. Petersburg, one of Russia's most unique and beautiful cities on this exclusive program. Russia has traditionally been linked to the East, but St. Petersburg is a very European city. Visit colorful, onion-domed cathedrals twinkling in candlelight. Delve into the storied legacy of Russian ballet and theater, and see a performance at the Hermitage Theater. Discover the treasures of czars and czarinas on display at the Palace of Pavlovsk, and explore the vast art collection at the State Hermitage Museum.

### DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city<sup>†</sup> for St. Petersburg, Russia.

<sup>†</sup>Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

### DAY TWO

#### ST. PETERSBURG

Upon arrival, transfer<sup>†</sup> to the Angleterre Hotel.

### DAY THREE

B I L I D

#### ST. PETERSBURG

**Educational Focus: *The Poetic Soul of St. Petersburg.*** Gain insight into the literature and poetry of Russia. Learn about Alexander Pushkin, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Nikolai Gogol and other great writers who called St. Petersburg home.

**Excursion: *Highlights of St. Petersburg.*** See the Admiralty, the city's most emblematic architectural landmark; the Bronze Horseman, a famous statue of Peter the Great on a rearing horse; and palaces, churches and other monuments. Explore the opulently decorated St. Isaac's Cathedral and the Peter and Paul Fortress, home to tombs of czars.

**Local Flavor:** Enjoy Russian cuisine for lunch at a St. Petersburg restaurant.

Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Dinner at the hotel.

### DAY FOUR

B I L

#### ST. PETERSBURG

**Educational Focus: *Russian Art.***

Learn about the long and diverse history of Russian art, including Byzantine-influenced icons, neoclassical paintings and the modern



Lamps on Korvsky Bridge

art movement that produced noted greats such as Kandinsky and Chagall.

**Excursion: *The Russian Museum and the Church of Our Savior on Spilled Blood.*** At the Russian Museum, browse work by local artists throughout the centuries. Continue to the Church of Our Savior on Spilled Blood. Built on the spot where Czar Alexander II was assassinated in 1881, the church is one of the most vibrant and beautiful in the city.

**Local Flavor:** Visit a St. Petersburg restaurant for lunch.

**Independent Exploration:** This afternoon and evening are at leisure.

### DAY FIVE

B I L

#### ST. PETERSBURG

**Educational Focus: *Russian Music and Ballet.*** Russian composers, choreographers and ballet dancers have made immense contributions to the highest echelons of the classical arts. Learn how the national passion for music and dance fostered these talents.

**Excursion: *Behind the Scenes in a Russian Theater and Yusupov Palace.*** Tour one of St. Petersburg's famous theaters before visiting Yusupov Palace. The home to five generations of the aristocratic Yusupov



Winter Palace

### UNESCO

The Historic Center of St. Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments is a UNESCO World Heritage site featured in this program.



Painting, Russian Museum

family, it is best known as the site of the murder of Grigory Rasputin, the “mad monk” who was the spiritual mentor of Czar Nicholas II and his family.

**Local Flavor:** At lunch, explore more Russian cuisine at a St. Petersburg restaurant.

#### DAY SIX

B I D

### ST. PETERSBURG

**Excursion: State Hermitage Museum.**

Take your time to explore the Hermitage Museum, part of the opulent Winter Palace constructed by Catherine the Great in the 18th century and home to one of the world’s foremost collections of fine art. The vast selection includes paintings by Picasso, Monet and Matisse as well as Russian jewelry, relics from ancient Greece and Rome, Egyptian mummies and much more.

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy some time to explore on your own.

**Local Flavor:** This evening, enjoy dinner at a St. Petersburg restaurant known for its vodka toasts, tasty pancakes and other traditional cuisine.

**Excursion: Performance at the Hermitage Theater.** After dinner, attend a performance at the historic Hermitage Theater for a firsthand taste of Russian art

“I have been to Moscow and St. Petersburg every year since 1980, from the Brezhnev-era Cold War to the present, for stays ranging from one to six months at a time. Even in the Cold War, with Olympic boycotts and the like, I never once felt threatened or uncomfortable. Even at tense times, I took my small children with me without worry.

Below the level of governmental sparring, in my experience Russians are always warm, open, friendly, and curious about us. They joke about their presidents and ours, and I have appreciated the unique experience of many relaxed discussions with Russians about their country and ours.”

Arch Getty  
Professor of History, UCLA

and culture. Built for Catherine the Great, the viewing hall is renowned for its magnificent architecture and sumptuous interiors.

#### DAY SEVEN

B I L I D

### ST. PETERSBURG

**Educational Focus: Czarist Russia.**

Delve into the rich history of the Russian czars, who ruled the country for three centuries until the 1917 revolution.

## INCLUDED FEATURES

### Accommodations

- Spend **seven nights** in **St. Petersburg** at the first-class **Angleterre Hotel**.

### Meals

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, including seven breakfasts, four lunches and four dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** at local restaurants.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Attend a special Welcome Dinner.
- Gather for a Graduation Ceremony and a Farewell Dinner.

### Your Exciting Travel Program

*(For details, see the day-by-day itinerary.)*

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **Personal VOX listening devices** allow you to hear every word of your expert, English-speaking guides.
- **All excursions:**
  - See the historic highlights of St. Petersburg.
  - Visit the Russian Museum and the Church of Our Savior on Spilled Blood.
  - Get a behind-the-scenes look at one of Russia's storied theaters.
  - Visit the famous Yusupov Palace.
  - Admire priceless art in the State Hermitage Museum.
  - Attend a performance at the Hermitage Theater.
  - Explore Catherine Palace and the Palace of Pavlovsk.

### Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Campus Director** and **expert, English-speaking local guides** throughout your stay.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.



Russian ballet

**Excursion: *The Catherine Palace and Park.*** Explore the Catherine Palace, a turquoise baroque masterpiece surrounded by elaborate gardens. Inside, the famous Amber Room features intricate amber panels and mosaics made of jasper and agate. Its priceless decorations were stolen by the Nazis during World War II. They have been re-created as the result of a joint German-Russian effort.

**Local Flavor:** Delight in a Russian folk show at lunch.

**Excursion: *Palace of Pavlovsk.*** One of Russia's most prized architectural feats, the neoclassical Palace of Pavlovsk was built for Catherine the Great's son Czar Paul I. The elegant palace, nestled in a wooded labyrinth, houses treasures collected throughout Europe by the czar and zarina.

**Local Flavor:** This evening, cruise past colorful palaces lining the banks of the Neva River as you enjoy a special dinner onboard.

#### DAY EIGHT

B | D

#### ST. PETERSBURG

**Independent Exploration:** The day is at leisure to explore, shop or relax.

Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers for a special Graduation Ceremony during your Farewell Dinner at the hotel.

#### DAY NINE

B

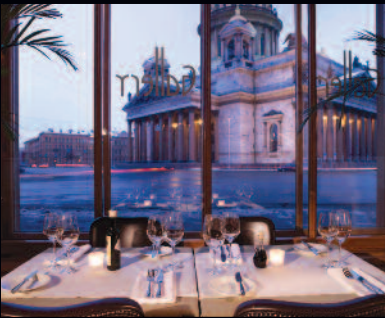
#### IN TRANSIT

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.\*

**NOTE:** *Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking.*

*Included meals indicated each day as B | L | D = Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner.*

# ACCOMMODATIONS

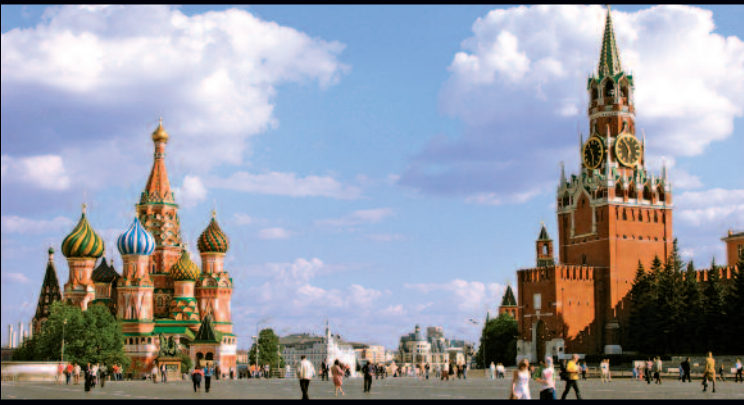


## ANGLETERRE HOTEL

Unwind at the Angleterre Hotel in the heart of St. Petersburg. Since the 1920s, the Angleterre Hotel has been a favorite retreat for Russia's literati. It is ideally located next to historic St. Isaac's Square and near the famed Hermitage Museum. Enjoy a light snack while watching a movie in the Angleterre Cinema Lounge, stroll through the hotel's art gallery and take advantage of the indoor pool and beauty salon in the fitness center. Savor international cuisine at Borsalino Restaurant. Wi-Fi is complimentary.

*Left: View of St. Isaac's Cathedral from the hotel restaurant*

*Below: Red Square, Moscow*



## Moscow Optional Post-Trip Extension

Travel from St. Petersburg to Moscow aboard the state-of-the-art Sapsan, Russia's sleek, high-speed train. Watch as birch forests, rural villages and wooden country homes zip by before you arrive in Russia's capital city, founded in the 12th century. Discover the majestic Red Square, the onion-domed St. Basil's Cathedral, the elaborate Kremlin and more during this three-night adventure. This extension includes daily excursions; accommodations at the **InterContinental Moscow ~ Tverskaya Hotel**; transfers to the St. Petersburg train station and to the Moscow hotel; and three breakfasts and one lunch.

**\$1,595 per person, double occupancy**

**\$1,945 single occupancy**

# Reserve your trip to St. Petersburg, today!

**Trip #:6-21846W**

Send to: The Association of Former Students  
Attn: Traveling Aggies  
505 George Bush Drive  
College Station, TX 77840-2918  
Phone: **979-845-7514** Fax: **979-845-9263**  
Toll Free: **800-633-7514**

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

Guest 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing room with \_\_\_\_\_ (Form sent separately.)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year

## Optional Three-Night Post-Trip Extension in Moscow, Russia

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for me (us) on the Moscow  
Optional Post-Trip extension.

**I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:**

### Land Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the round trip AHI FlexAir to and  
from St. Petersburg, Russia, to depart from:

Departure City

- Please contact me regarding air options.  
 Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

### Land Program

- I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.  
 I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$695 (limited availability).  
 I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is  
available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be  
found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and are processed on a first come, first  
served basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by June 9, 2015 (75 days prior to  
departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by pay-  
ment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa or  
Discover. Make checks payable to AHI International.

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of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Enclosed is a deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 per person required)  
to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

- Accept my check made payable to **AHI International**.  
 Charge my:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover Expires \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature as it appears on credit card)

**Please note:** Any payment to AHI International constitutes your acceptance of the terms  
and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.



# LAND PROGRAM

## Aug. 24-31, 2015

Full Price

\$3,545

Special Savings

\$250

Special Price\*

\$3,295\*

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.  
VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$695 (limited availability).

**NOT INCLUDED**-Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

**MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL**-The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

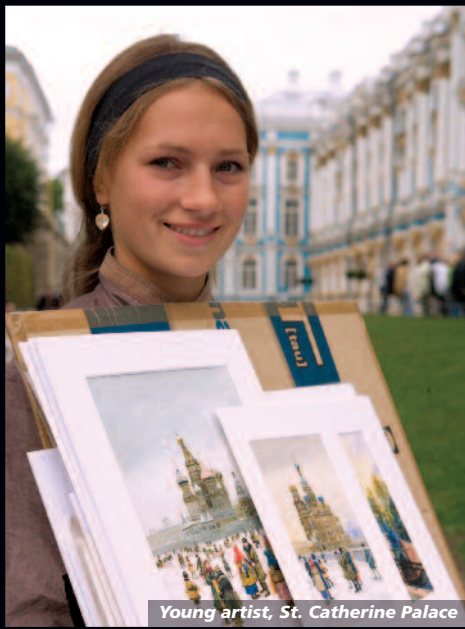
**AIR TRANSPORTATION**-The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. **VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

**BAGGAGE**-Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

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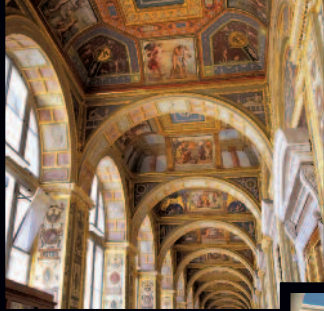
**CANCELLATION**-In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. (Please note that you may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following.) Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE.** All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI International Corporation.



Young artist, St. Catherine Palace

## AHI FLEXAIR Aug. 23-31, 2015

Our personalized air program allows you to select your flights, routing, class of service and dates of travel in consultation with one of our experienced Passenger Service Representatives. Airfares will vary, depending on airline, routing and class of service. Specially negotiated air rates are often available. In most cases, transfers between the airport and hotel/cruise ship will be included on arrival and departure days. Your Passenger Service Representative will provide you with all of the details you need to guarantee your transfer. Book your air with us to ensure assistance in the case of schedule changes or delays that may impact your air travel plans.



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**Top to bottom:**

*Loggias Gallery, State Hermitage Museum  
Café, St. Petersburg Musician, Catherine Palace Gallery, Russian Museum*

**Cover photo:**  
*Catherine Palace*



**A word about your Tour Operator**

AHI Travel is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in **innovative travel programs since 1962.**



**In AHI Travel's care, you can rely on:**

- **An exceptional travel value.** It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.
- **Unique access to local sites.** Take advantage of more than 50 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region's hidden treasures.
- **Experienced Travel Directors** who attend to every detail of your journey.
- **Expertise of local guides** who possess authoritative knowledge of the region and offer personal insight into local culture.
- **Flexibility and customization.** Free time during the trip allows you to pursue your own interests. They will also help you tailor your dream trip with add-ons and extensions.
- **Safety and security.** In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.



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