

MOSCOW ST. PETERSBURG

SPONSORED BY



Sept. 5-14, 2018



A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers, who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

Your journey to Russia offers a wealth of life-affirming moments in Moscow, St. Petersburg and beyond. From the grandeur of the czars to enchanting nesting dolls and steamy black tea, your memories of Russia will enrich your life for years to come.

Inspiring Moments

- ► Admire Russia's cultural treasures, from folk songs and handmade collectibles to priceless masterpieces.
- ▶ Stand in awe in historic. monumental Red Square.
- ► Escape the crowds with early access to the must-see Hermitage Museum.
- ▶ Feel the mist from the fountains as you stroll the grand promenades of **Peter the Great's** opulent palace.
- ▶ Be dazzled by the Russian baroque Catherine Palace and the mystery of the Amber Room.
- ► Take in sweeping vistas on the Sapsan, the high-speed train from Moscow to St. Petersburg.

Above: Catherine Palace, Pushkin | Cover photo: Peterhof



Howdy, Ags!

Experience the opulence, humanity and drama of Russia on this thoughtfully designed 10-day journey. From its golden spires and onion domes to its gingerbread cottages and babushkas, get to know a vast and dichotomous land that can feel like a world away.

Carefully curated for your convenience and pleasure, the Imperial Splendors of Russia program delivers an insider's look at the world's largest country and still one of its most enigmatic. Daily discoveries introduce you to Russia's grandeur while local guides and enrichment opportunities shed light on Russia's history, secrets, humor and day-to-day life.

Including all excursions, illuminating lectures, friendly local guides, and much more, our fascinating program delivers a seamless Russian adventure and an unparalleled travel value. Limited space is sure to go fast on this small-group program, so we urge you to reserve your place today!

Gig 'em!

Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D. Director of Travel - Outreach and Engagement The Association of Former Students

800-633-7514

AggieNetwork.com/Travel



Art | Architecture | Culture | Cuisine | History | Mystique



Day One

In Transit

Depart gateway city for Moscow, Russia. +

Day Two

D

Moscow, Russia

Upon arrival in Moscow, transfer ★ to the InterContinental Moscow Tverskaya and check in to your room.

This evening, get to know your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception. Then enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Day Three B

Moscow

Enrichment: Russian Art. Review the history of Russian visual arts. Learn about gilded Byzantine icons, neoclassical paintings influenced by the tastes of Catherine the Great and the masterpieces of revolutionary modern artists including Kandinsky and Chagall.

Discovery: *Moscow Highlights.* Take in Moscow's most notable sights on a panoramic tour of the metropolis, home to nearly 12 million residents. In recent years, this most populous city in Russia as well as Europe has transformed itself as sleek, modern skyscrapers replace relics of the Soviet era. Get to know landmarks within the Garden Ring, a network of streets that encircles the city center. See the towering fortress walls of the Kremlin, busy Tverskaya Street, sprawling



and symbolic Red Square, Manezhnaya Square and the Arbat, a welcoming pedestrian street in the city's old center. See the Stalinskie Vysotki, known as the "Seven Sisters" to English speakers, high-rises built in the Stalinist style between 1947 and 1953. Finish the tour with a visit to the copper-domed Russian Orthodox Cathedral of Christ the Savior, demolished by order of Stalin but rebuilt in the 1990s.

Discovery: *Tretyakov Gallery.* Experience the evolution of Russian art as you tour this collection of more than 180,000 pieces spanning a thousand years.

Day Four B|L

Moscow

Discovery: Metro, Kremlin and Red Square.

First, go below ground to see the Soviet-era splendor of Moscow's Metro stations. Constructed in the 1930s as propaganda predicting a radiant





future under Stalin's leadership, the stations showcase luxury for the people, including marble floors, chandeliers, mosaics and more. Next, step inside the red walls of the Kremlin, a fortress-within-a-city that encompasses lavish palaces, gold-domed cathedrals and Russia's highest state offices. Visit the Armoury Chamber to gaze on the treasures of the Russian czars, including crowns and jewels, Fabergé eggs, royal carriages and fierce armor. Cross Red Square to browse modern luxuries at the GUM department store, built in the Russian medieval style during the Victorian age. Then, stroll to St. Basil's Cathedral to admire its swirling, candy-colored domes firsthand. Enjoy lunch at a restaurant in the area.

Free Time: The remainder of the day is yours to discover the secrets and treasures of central Moscow.

Day Five B | D

Moscow

Discovery: Novodevichy Convent and

Cemetery. Explore the peaceful oasis of this 16th-century religious complex, designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Built in the Moscow baroque style, the convent is known for its gorgeous gold- and silver-domed Smolensk Cathedral and the frescoes within. Both convent



and fortress, Novodevichy stood as an important part of Moscow's defense over the centuries. Just outside the convent walls, find the Novodevichy Cemetery and visit the well-adorned burial sites of prominent artists and political leaders including Anton Chekhov, Nikolai Gogol, Nikita Khrushchev and Boris Yeltsin.

Free Time: Explore on your own during your final afternoon in Moscow.

This evening, indulge in fine dining, Russian-style, at one of Moscow's superior restaurants.

Day Six B | D

Moscow | St. Petersburg

After an early breakfast, transfer to the Leningradsky rail station for your high-speed





Sapsan train ride to St. Petersburg. Named for the peregrine falcon, the Sapsan zips between cities at speeds of up to 155 miles per hour. From the train station, transfer to the Angleterre Hotel in St. Petersburg.

Discovery: St. Petersburg Highlights. Get to know Russia's cultured "window to Europe" through its famous landmarks. Positioned where the Neva River meets the Gulf of Finland, the port city is filled with canals, bridges and islands. See the Bronze Horseman, which depicts the city's eponymous founder Peter the Great; the neoclassical Admiralty with its gold spire; the ornate, onion-domed Church of Our Savior on the Spilled Blood: and other palaces, monuments and churches for which St. Petersburg is known. Visit granite-adorned St. Isaac's Cathedral and the Peter and Paul Fortress, the city's first structure, whose cathedral holds the tombs of czars. After the tour, enjoy St. Petersburg's cuisine at a restaurant in the city.

Day Seven

B|L

St. Petersburg

Enrichment: Russian Music and Ballet.

Learn how the Russian passion for classical music and ballet has propelled the country's

composers, choreographers and dancers to the pinnacle of their arts.

Discovery: Behind the Scenes at the Mariinsky Theater. Visit the theater, formerly known as the Kirov, that has hosted the premieres of operas by Mussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov and Tchaikovsky and is home to the renowned Mariinsky Ballet Company. Over 234 seasons, its stage has shown off the talents of ballet legends including Pavlova, Nijinsky, Nureyev and Baryshnikov. Complete your tour with lunch at one of the unique restaurants nearby.

Free Time: This afternoon, explore St. Petersburg's many cultural treasures on your own.

Enrichment: *Czarist Russia.* From 1613 to 1917, Russia's Romanovs ruled as czars, leading unprecedented imperial expansion of the realm. Delve into the intrigue and drama of St. Petersburg's royal dynasty, and learn about their demise in the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

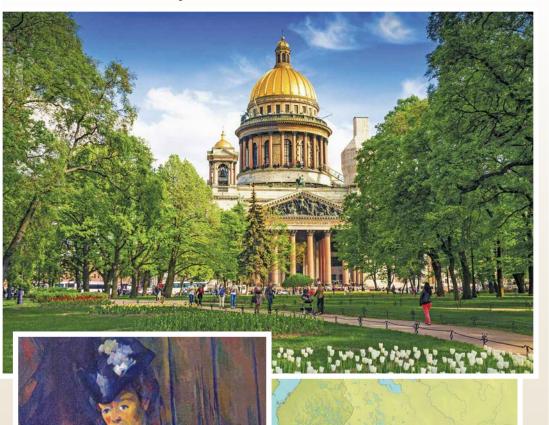
Day Eight B | L

Peterhof | Catherine Palace

Discovery: *Peterhof.* Step back in time to the reign of Peter the Great on a visit to his baroque Great Palace and the formal gardens that surround it. Overlooking the Gulf of Finland, the spectacular estate delights visitors with grottoes, statues and numerous fountains—many of which were painstakingly restored after being plundered during World War II.

Discovery: Folkloric Russia. Enjoy lunch at a country house, tasting traditional Russian dishes, sipping vodka and celebrating folk traditions with a delightful live music and dance show.

Discovery: Catherine Palace. Visit the summer



"Lady In Blue," Cezanne, State Hermitage Museum

residence of the Romanovs, built by Empress Elizabeth for her mother, Empress Catherine I. This gilded palace, inspired by Versailles, exemplifies the Russian baroque style. Inside, the storied Amber Room glows with intricate gold leaf designs and inlaid amber and wood. The room's décor was stolen by the Nazis but restored through a joint German-Russian effort in time for the 300th anniversary of St. Petersburg in 2003.

Day Nine B | D

St. Petersburg

Discovery: State Hermitage Museum.

This famed museum, which began as the private gallery for the acquisitions of Catherine the Great, showcases one of the world's finest and

broadest collections of art. Early entry lets you spend time enjoying the most popular exhibits, including many masterpieces of European Renaissance and baroque art, before the museum opens to the public.

Moscow

RUSSIA

Free Time: Enjoy your last afternoon in St. Petersburg at leisure.

This evening, share highlights of your Russian adventure with fellow travelers at the Farewell Dinner.

Day Ten B

In Transit

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

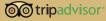
Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Walking is required on many excursions, and surfaces may be uneven or unpayed.

★Transfers and flights included for AHI FlexAir participants B|L|D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Our travel experts have carefully selected these first-class properties for their prime locations. They are ideally located for exploring the region's renowned landmarks, while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in local life. Of utmost importance is the quality of the services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.















Reserve your trip to Russia today!

Trip #:8-23726W

The Association of Former Students

Attn: Traveling Aggies 505 George Bush Drive College Station, TX 77840-2918 Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF The Association of Former Students -ĀŢĥ-

Phone: 979-845-7514 Fax: 979-845-9263 Toll Free: 800-633-7514

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on your passport) Guest 1: ____ Middle Date of Birth Email: Guest 2: ____ Middle Last Date of Birth Email: _ Street Address: City: _ _____ ZIP: _____ Home: (_____)_____Cell: (_____)____ _____ (Form sent separately) Sharing room with_ Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s): (2) Class Year 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 AHI FlexAir to Moscow, Russia, with a return from St. Petersburg, 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. Single Accommodations I prefer single accommodations at an additional \$895 (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, firstserved basis. Reservations are to be paid in full by **June 22, 2018** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel. AHI Travel has assumed all costs for the printing and distribution of this promotion. This program is exclusively arranged by AHI Travel, 8550 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60631. No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

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 fea-tures; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal na-

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 reune ucket price may be leved. It comhecting hights 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 ITIMEHARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTIME Passengers who choose to make their own airline. TURE. Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for arrival and departure transfers, and any airline fees or penalrival and departure transierts, and any annine tees or peria-ties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s). BAGGAGE-Baggage restrictions vary according to the air-line policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage al-

u.u.e. zucuss usugage charges for additional or oversized/overwight 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.

AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORD-IMSS-100 region AUT Traval obtains from its darff or **INGS**-On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing com-pensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or train-

lowances are subject to change by the carrier without no-tice. Excess baggage charges for additional or

RESPONSIBILITY-AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, ac-commodations or other services. All such persons or enti-ties are independent contractors. As a result, AHI Travel and use are independent contractors. As a result, Arii itavel and the Sponsoring Association are not liable for any negligence or willful act of any such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, Arli Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or acci-dent, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature dent, meditalinear delect, failure or neglingerice of any nature howsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in Dates, Program Detains and four costs, authoring upon fing good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed timerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mu-tual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is canceled for any reason, participants shall entire program is carceled for any teason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physi-cal, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and ac-cepts the terms of this contract set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

senger and/or purchaser of this trip.

CANCELLATION.1 ancellations for any reason will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. 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 wine cost of the trip. TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT ATER YOU RESERVE. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI Travel. CANCELLATION OF TRIP OPTIONS-Purchases of optional excursions, trip extensions and additional hotel nights become fully non-refundable 45 days prior to departure. Air transportation and private transfer purchases are subject only to penalties assessed by the airlines and transfer suppliers. sessed by the airlines and transfer suppliers

All prices listed are in USD. Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined. CST Registration
No. 2028271-20. Fla. Seller of Travel Reg. No. ST-33300 lowa Seller of Travel No. 520 Ohio Seller of Travel Reg. No. 8889139. Washington State Seller of Travel Reg. No 601-820-781. PARTICIPATING AIRLINES-all IATA and ARC Member Carriers @2018 AHI Travel Printed in the USA

(Signature as it appears on credit card) Please note: Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

Enclosed is a deposit of ___

Card # _

Accept my check made payable to AHI Travel. □ Charge my: □ MasterCard □ Visa □ Discover □ Amex

_____ (\$600/person required) to reserve _____ place(s).

Expires____/___

PROGRAM DATES

Air Program dates: Sept. 5-14, 2018
Land Program dates: Sept. 6-14, 2018

LAND PROGRAM

Full Price Special Savings **Special Price***\$3,745 \$250 **\$3,495**

*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 \$895 (limited availability).

Let us arrange your flights!

★AHI FlexAir | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- ➤ price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure transfers on most flights
- flexibility to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- ► assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- ▶ flight insurance worth up to \$250,000, subject to policy terms

Travel stress-free with AHI FlexAir.



UNESCO World Heritage

- 1.Kremlin and Red Square
- 2.Ensemble of the Novodevichy Convent
- 3. Historic Center of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups of Monuments



INCLUDED FEATURES

ACCOMMODATIONS

(With baggage handling.)

- Four nights in Moscow, Russia, at the first-class InterContinental Moscow Tverskaya.
- Four nights in St. Petersburg at the first-class Angleterre Hotel.

TRANSFERS

 High-speed train from Moscow to St. Petersburg and baggage handling.

EXTENSIVE MEAL PROGRAM

- Eight breakfasts, three lunches and four dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample authentic regional specialties during meals at local restaurants.



YOUR ONE-OF-A-KIND JOURNEY

- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history:
 - -Enjoy a panoramic tour of Moscow's highlights.
 - -View the art of the Tretyakov Gallery.
 - -See the Metro, Kremlin and Red Square.
 - -Explore peaceful Novodevichy Convent and Cemetery.
 - -Delight in St. Petersburg's orderly elegance.
 - -Step backstage at the Mariinsky Theater.
 - -Witness Peter the Great's majestic palace and the Gulf of Finland.
 - -Feel like royalty at lavish Catherine Palace.
 - -Revel in a live performance of Russian folk singing and dancing.
 - Benefit from early access to the Hermitage Museum.
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- A Welcome Reception to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Clearly hear your English-speaking guide with your own VOX headset.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

AHI TRAVEL EXPERTISE

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

- ▶ **Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ▶ Passenger Service Representative | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ▶ **Travel Information** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to prepare you fully for your journey.

Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- ➤ **Travel Director** | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- ▶ Expert Guides | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ▶ **Lecturers** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



A PROGRAM OF The Association of Former Students'

College Station, TX 77840-2918 505 George Bush Drive

RUSSIA18 37

AggieNetwork.com/Travel 800-633-7514





Discover the history, humanity and mystique of Russia!



travel programs that delight travelers. inspirational educational and cultural AHI Travel's mission is to deliver

With AHI you can rely on:

attend to every detail of your journey.

Experienced Travel Directors who

An exceptional travel value.

discounts and pricing. program information,

- customization. Flexibility and
 - Safety and security.



Presorted Std. U.S. Postage Paid AHI Travel