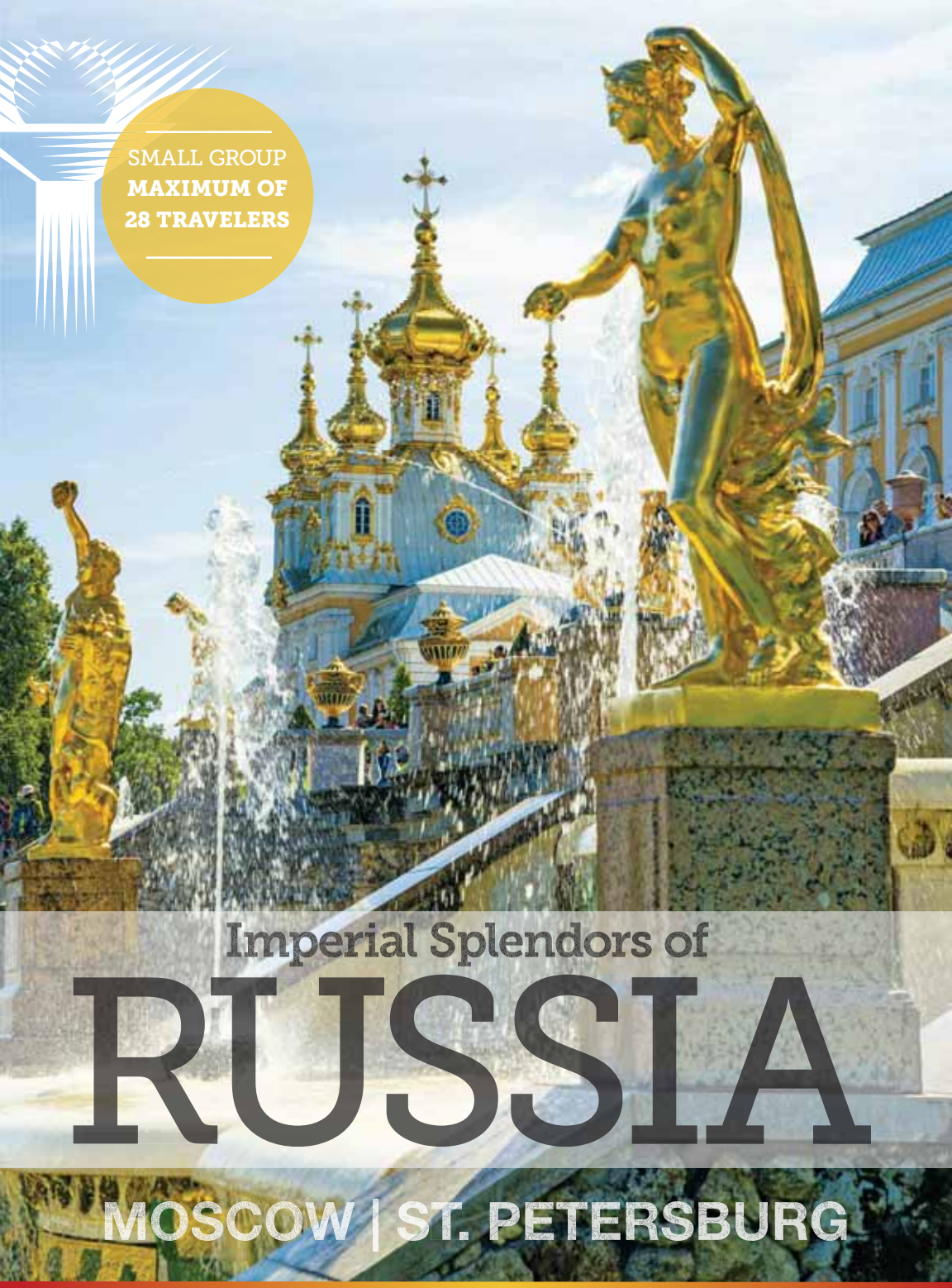


SMALL GROUP
**MAXIMUM OF 28 TRAVELERS**

# Imperial Splendors of RUSSIA

## MOSCOW | ST. PETERSBURG

SPONSORED BY

**Cornell Alumni Association Travel Program**

**September 12-21, 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.

*Above: Catherine Palace, Pushkin | Cover photo: Peterhof*

## *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.

## Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends,

We invite you to be among the thousands of Cornell alumni, parents and friends who view the Cornell Alumni Association (CAA) Travel Program as their first choice for memorable travel adventures.

If you've travelled with CAA before, you know to expect excellent travel experiences in some of the world's most interesting places. If our travel offerings are new to you, you'll want to take a closer look at our upcoming tours.

Working closely with some of the world's most highly-respected travel companies, CAA trips are not only well organized, safe, and a great value, they are filled with remarkable people. This year, as we have for more than forty years, are offering itineraries in the United States and around the globe.

Whether you're ascending a sand dune by camel, strolling the cobbled streets of a 'medieval town', hiking a trail on a remote mountain pass, or lounging poolside on one of our luxury cruises, we guarantee *an extraordinary journey in great company.*

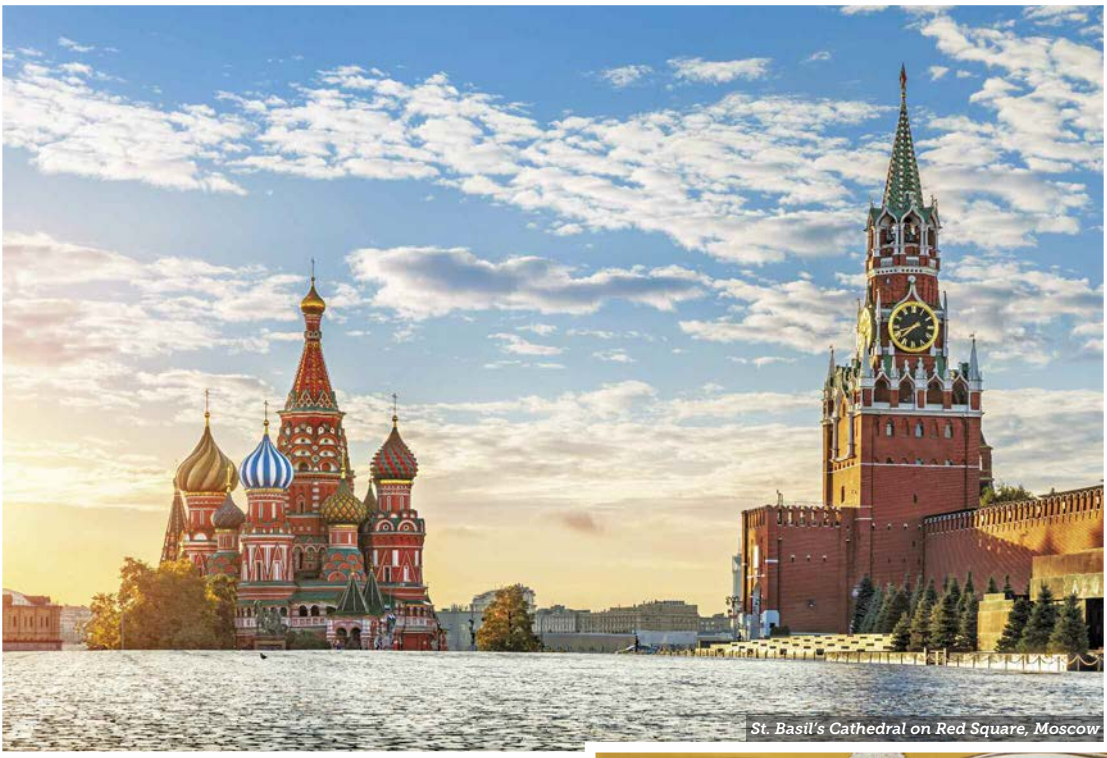
And that's the reason so many Cornellians return, year after year, to travel with the Cornell Alumni Association. If you, like me, simply can't wait for your next travel adventure, I encourage you to register today for this or another of our remarkable travel offerings.

Warmly,

James A. Mazza '88
Associate Vice President for Alumni Affairs
Cornell University

**800-323-7373** **corn.ahitravel.com**

*Russian folk performers*



*St. Basil's Cathedral on Red Square, Moscow*

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.

*Moscow Metro*

**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

Cathedral of Christ the Savior, Moscow

Kremlin, Moscow

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

GUM department store

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

State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg

Sapsan high-speed train

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 neo-classical 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

*Below: St. Isaac's Cathedral, St. Petersburg*

*"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.

**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 unpaved.*

*✈Transfers and flights included for AHI FlexAir participants*

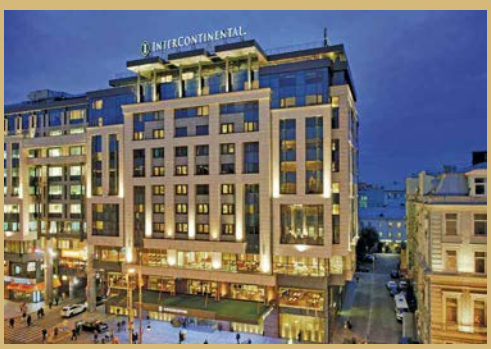
*B|L|D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.*

*Peter and Paul Fortress, St. Petersburg, Gulf of Finland*

# 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.

tripadvisor



**INTERCONTINENTAL MOSCOW TVERSKAYA** | MOSCOW

**ANGLETERRE HOTEL** | ST. PETERSBURG

## Reserve your trip to Russia today!

Trip #:9-23727W

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Cornell Alumni Association Travel Program
c/o AHI Travel
International Tower-Suite 600
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631

Please contact AHI Travel at **800-323-7373** with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

1) _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

2) _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home: (_____)_____ Cell: (_____)_____

Sharing with_____ (Form sent separately)

**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 processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by **June 29, 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.

Enclosed is a deposit of _____ ($600 pp required) to reserve _____ place(s).

❒ Accept my check made payable to **AHI Travel**.

❒ Charge my: ❒ MasterCard ❒ Visa ❒ Discover ❒ Amex

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Expires_____/_____

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(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.

If you are interested in making independent travel arrangements before and/or after this program, please contact AHI Travel at **800-323-7373** no later than 60 days prior to departure and they will be happy to assist you with your reservations.

*A nonrefundable service fee and additional air/land charges based on reservations apply.*

**ULTIMATE FLEXIBILITY**-The AHI Travel Passenger Protection Plan offers an **Any Reason Cancellation** feature. Don't worry! Travel happy!

**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.

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**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.

**AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS**-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 compensation 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 training activities.

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**CANCELLATION**-All cancellations 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 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 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.

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 Iowa 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.

## PROGRAM DATES

**Air Program dates:** September 12-21, 2018

**Land Program dates:** September 13-21, 2018

## LAND PROGRAM

| Full Price | Special Savings | **Special Price*** |
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| $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).
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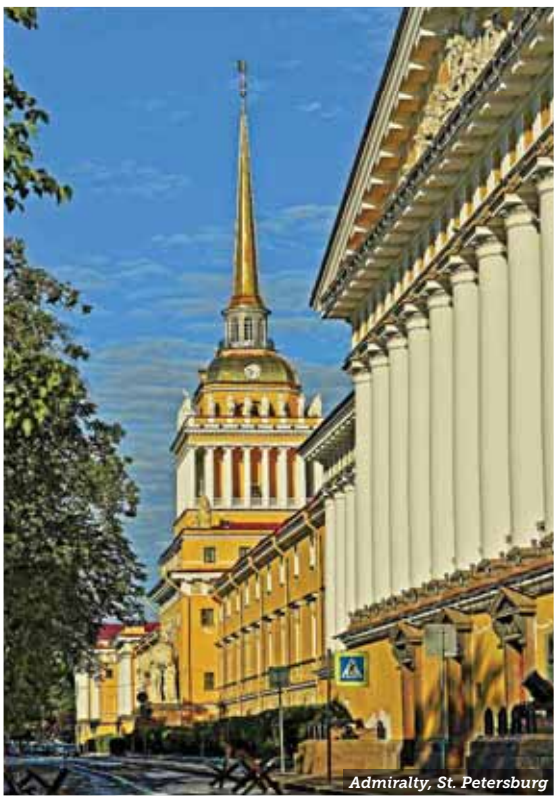

*Admiralty, St. Petersburg*

### 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

*Novodevichy Convent*

# 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.

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- **Travel Consultants** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
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***Once you arrive:***

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- **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.

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*Church of Our Savior on the Spilled Blood, St. Petersburg*

*Red Square, Moscow*

# Discover the history, humanity and mystique of Russia!

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