



July 8-17, 2020

## 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.

This journey will inspire an exciting chapter in your own story as you explore 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.



### Dear Johns Hopkins Alumni and Friends,

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, intriguing 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.

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

Sincerely,

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Marguerite I. Jones, A&S '74, Bus '88 Travel Program Director, Office of Alumni Relations The Johns Hopkins University

### AHI: 800-323-7373

### www.alumni.jhu.edu



### Art | Architecture | Culture | Cuisine | History | Natural Beauty



### Day 1 | **In Transit**

Depart your gateway city for Moscow, Russia.

### Day 2 | Moscow, Russia

Upon arrival in Moscow, transfer **t** to the InterContinental Moscow Tverskaya.

This evening, get to know your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception.

### Day 3 | Moscow

**Enrichment:** *Russian Art.* Examine diverse historical trends, including Byzantine-influenced icons, neoclassical paintings and the modern art movement, pioneered by Kandinsky and Chagall.

**Discovery:** *Moscow Highlights.* With more than 12.1 million residents, Moscow is Russia's most populous city, as well as the largest one on the European continent. Become acquainted with its notable landmarks on a panoramic tour. See the vast fortifications of the Kremlin, bustling Tverskaya Street, Red Square, Manezhnaya Square and the Arbat, a pedestrian-friendly area and one of the city's oldest streets. Other highlights include the "Seven Sisters," known as Stalinskie Vysotki by Muscovites, a collection of skyscrapers commissioned by Stalin and constructed from 1947–1953. Visit the copperdomed Orthodox Cathedral of Christ the Savior, a 20th-century creation.



**Discovery:** *Tretyakov Gallery.* Witness the evolution of Russian sculptures and paintings in a striking collection that spans a thousand years. **Free Time:** The evening is at leisure.

### Day 4 | Moscow

### **Discovery:** The Kremlin and Red Square.

Travel inside the red-walled Kremlin, a selfcontained 15th-century city that includes palaces, gold-domed cathedrals and a medieval fortress. At the Armoury Chamber, marvel at the glittering treasures of Russian emperors and empresses, including Fabergé eggs, gold and silver works of art, royal carriages and armor. Cross Red Square, visit the ornate GUM department store and then stroll to St. Basil's Cathedral to admire its wildly colorful onion domes.

Savor lunch at a restaurant in the area.

**Free Time:** Pursue your own interests for the rest of the day.

Free Time: Enjoy lunch on your own.





### Day 5 | Moscow

**Discovery:** Novodevichy Convent and Cemetery and Moscow Metro. Founded in 1524 on the Moskva River, this beautiful convent complex was part of a defensive ring of monastery fortresses that once guarded Moscow. Inside the walls, explore this peaceful oasis, an ensemble of churches, bell towers and buildings that has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. The gorgeous frescoes in the gold-and-silver-domed Cathedral of Our Lady of Smolensk are a special standout and among the best in Moscow. The adjacent cemetery is the burial site of many prominent authors, composers and political leaders, including Nikolai Gogol, Dmitri Shostakovich, Anton Chekhov, Nikita Khrushchev and Boris Yeltsin. Then go underground to discover Moscow's uniquely beautiful Soviet-era Metro stations, featuring marble floors, chandeliers, mosaics, sculptures and decorative artwork.

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

Gather for a group dinner at a local restaurant.

### Day 6 | St. Petersburg

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



Sapsan train ride to St. Petersburg. Sapsan is the Russian word for the peregrine falcon, and like its namesake, this train is incredibly fast, zipping between cities at speeds of up to 155 miles per hour.

Transfer to the Angleterre Hotel, and enjoy time for lunch on your own.

**Discovery:** *St. Petersburg Highlights.* Marvel at this picturesque city, founded in 1703 and filled with canals and hundreds of bridges, due to its location across numerous islands in the delta of the Neva River. Admire the Bronze Horseman, the famous statue of Peter the Great on a rearing horse; the neoclassical gold-spired Admiralty; the Church of Our Savior on the Spilled Blood; as well as other historic





monuments, palaces and churches that make St. Petersburg one of Europe's most dazzling cities. Visit lavish St. Isaac's Cathedral and the Peter and Paul Fortress, home to some of the city's oldest buildings. Its cathedral holds the tombs of the most famous Russian czars. Tonight, delight in a delicious dinner at a restaurant in St. Petersburg.

### Day 7 | St. Petersburg

**Enrichment:** *Russian Music and Ballet.* The country's composers, choreographers and ballet dancers have reached the highest echelons of the classical arts. Learn how Russia's passion for music and dance fostered these talents.

**Connects:** *St. Petersburg Classic Ballet School.* Delight in an intimate look at the artistry of this ballet company, founded in 1996. After an introduction from the ballet group's director, observe the dancers' intense warm-up exercises at the barre from your seat in the practice room. Then watch as costumed dancers gracefully leap, pirouette and glide en pointe during an exclusive performance of selected pieces from famous ballets.

Relax over lunch at a restaurant in the area.

Free Time: Enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

**Enrichment:** *Czarist Russia.* Czar, the Russian word for emperor, was the title given to the rulers of the Romanov Dynasty who determined Russia's destiny from 1613 to the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. Delve into the riveting story of how they dictated the history of the Russian Empire from St. Petersburg.

### Day 8 | Peterhof | Catherine Palace

**Discovery:** *Peterhof.* Be transported back in time to the reign of Peter the Great at his spectacular palace, Peterhof. Overlooking the Gulf of Finland, the estate delights visitors with expansive formal gardens, landscaped parkland, grottoes, statues and a remarkable collection of magnificent fountains. Feel the cool mist as you stroll near the breathtaking Grand Cascade, which alone comprises 64 decorative fountains.

**Discovery:** *Russian Folk Traditions.* At a country house, savor lunch and sample vodka, then celebrate folk traditions during a show featuring live music and dancing. Listen to classic Russian songs being played on traditional instruments.

**Discovery:** *The Catherine Palace.* This afternoon, visit this splendid baroque imperial residence, built by Empress Elizabeth for her mother, Empress Catherine I, which was inspired by the palace at Versailles. Step inside the famed Amber Room, an exquisite chamber adorned with gold leaf and intricate inlaid amber panels. The original priceless decorations were stolen by the Nazis during World War II and later recreated through a joint German-Russian effort.

### Day 9 | St. Petersburg

### Discovery: State Hermitage Museum.

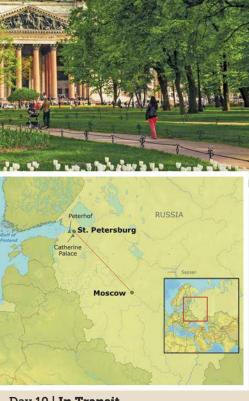
This acclaimed museum, which began as the private gallery for the acquisitions of Catherine



"Lady In Blue," Paul Cézanne, State Hermitage Museum

the Great, showcases one of the world's finest and broadest collections of art, including paintings by French Impressionists and Dutch and Italian masters; fine Asian art; Greek and Roman antiquities; Egyptian mummies and much more. On your half-day visit, enjoy early entry, which allows you to view the most popular exhibits before the museum opens to the public. The Hermitage is located within the opulent Winter Palace. It served as the main residence for Russian czars from the mid-18th century and was commissioned by empress Elizabeth Petrovna, daughter of Peter the Great.

**Free Time:** Your afternoon is at leisure. This evening, gather for a Farewell Dinner with your fellow travelers to share stories of your Russian adventures and celebrate your journey.



### Day 10 | In Transit

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

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions. **③**Flights and **③**transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

### A Note About Activity Levels

We want you to have a comfortable and enjoyable experience. That's why we have rated all of our excursions with activity levels to help you assess this program's physical expectations. Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available. Please call or visit our website to review the itinerary for full details about our activity levels.

### Excursions on this program require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches, boats and/or trains
- walking through train corridors whether the train is in motion or stopped



### ACCOMMODATIONS

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

**OO** tripadvisor<sup>®</sup>





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### 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 gratiutiles; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; airport transfer costs for those not participating in AH's FlexAir; all items of a strictly personal nature.

DBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL-The right is re ned to decline, to accept or to retain any person as a mber of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit travel or whose physical or mental condition may consti-e a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject v to the requirement that the portion of the total amount d which corresponds to the unused services and accom dations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assis ice, including without limitation those who permanently periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by neone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be ponsible for providing all required assistance. TRANSPORTATION-The price of air transportation ofed by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excur-n fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are re-ested, special promotional fares may be used, in which e penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by e airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after keting. After departure, if the reservations are changed, u will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare RIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE RE-ESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPAR-RE. Passengers who choose to make their own airline ervations independently will be wholly responsible for ar-

rival and departure transfers, and any alfilme 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 movided with your pre-denatric information. Bancana el-

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 RECORD-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 autinorize 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 train-

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senger and/or purchaser of this trip. CANCELLATION -All cancellations for any reason will be subject to a \$200 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. The credit will be applied to the final billing and may not be used as part of the initial deposit. It is non-transferable and is not valid toward the purchase of an AHI Cruises independent cruise. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 15% 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, TRP CANCELLATION INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE. AN APPLICATION WILL BE SENT AFTER YOU RESERVE. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI Travel. CANCELLATION OF TIRIP 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.

### **PROGRAM DATES**

Air Program dates:July 8-17, 2020Land Program dates:July 9-17, 2020

### LAND PROGRAM

Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*	
\$4,045	\$250	\$3,795	

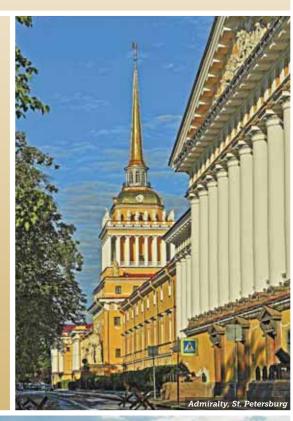
\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel. VAT is an additional \$295 per person. All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Single accommodations are an additional \$755 (limited availability).

### Let us arrange your flights!

**CAHI 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 group dates.
- 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



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### **INCLUDED FEATURES**

### Accommodations

(with baggage handling)

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

### Transfers

• All transfers in the Land Program: high-speed train and deluxe motor coaches, plus baggage handling.

### **Extensive Meal Program**

- 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, including a Farewell Dinner; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.



### 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 Kremlin and Red Square.
- Explore Novodevichy Convent and Cemetery, and admire the Metro stations.
- Delight in St. Petersburg's elegant ambience.
- Witness ballet dancers in action up close.
- Marvel at Peter the Great's majestic palace.
- 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.
- **(AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Free time to pursue your own interests.
- A Welcome Reception to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your Englishspeaking guide clearly.
- 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.



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# Discover the history, humanity and mystique of Russia!

Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information,

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

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
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