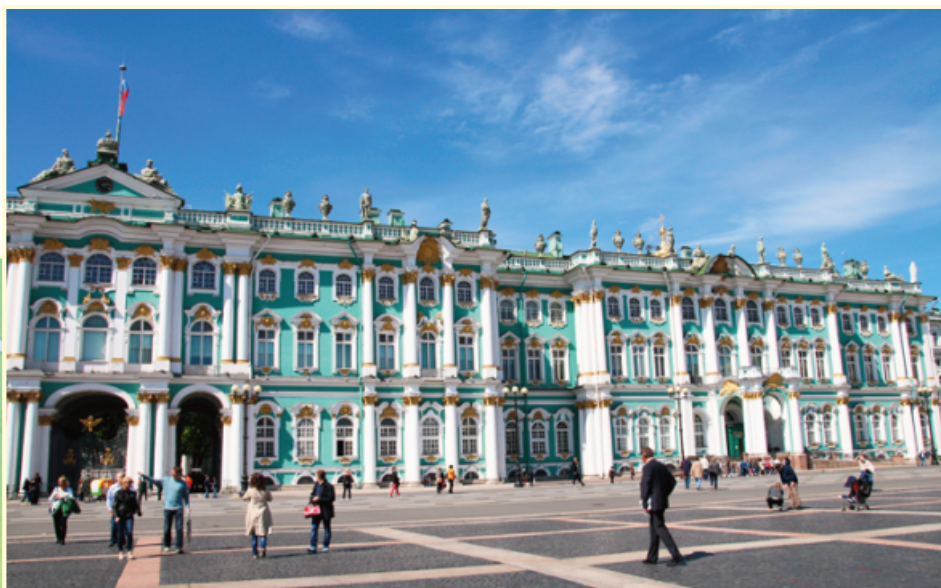


A Week in St. Petersburg

Tour Date
03.07.22 - 11.07.22
Cut-off Date: 30.04.2022



CHARACTERISTICS/IDEA BEHIND THIS TOUR:

- + good for working people, not too long
- + good addition if you are travelling the Baltic States
- + rooms available for additional persons
- + alternatively, available for car/plane tourists by staying in hotel room
- +/- most sightseeing days are extensive = difficult for dog/pet owners

PREPARATION:


Travel documents*: Passport (validity until 6 months after tour), international driving license, green card, visa

Visa*: We have planned an e-Visa for this trip. Obtaining it is nowhere near as time-consuming as the normal tourist visa; but it is also subject to restrictions. It is only valid for 8 days, only entitles you to stay in the issued area (St. Petersburg) and to use special border crossings (Ivangorod and the three southernmost border crossings to Finland). We need from you: Scan of the picture side of the passport and a current passport photo.


If you want to extend your stay on site, we can extend this to a 30-day tourist visa for an additional charge of 70 €. In that case, however, at the beginning of May we need your original passport, passport photo and proof that you have travel health insurance and that you are willing to return.

CB-radio: Not required 

Car Insurance: All countries of this trip are part of the green card system. Some insurances have to be asked to cover

Russia. As the local cover is rather low we recommend that you are insured fully comprehensive. 

Vaccinations: None are compulsory. A Covid-19 vaccination may be necessary to enter a country/ avoid quarantine. More information at www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Pets: require a pet passport and close to departing from home attestation from an official veterinarian. A treatment against tapeworm has to be taken in St. Petersburg prior to in case you wish to travel through Scandinavia. Dog owners should contact us before booking to clarify whether traveling with a dog makes sense because of the many all-day programs. 

Pre-Tour Meeting: The pre-tour meeting in Germany, at which we also collect the copies of your passport takes place on May 21th and is only open to booked participants. As a service to our only-English speaking clients may take place as Online Meeting.

TOUR LOGISTICS:

Meeting Point: Official meeting point for tour start is in Toila, Estonia, approx. 50km west of the Russian border.

Tour Leader: Your tour leader informs regularly about driving stages and daily programmes. If needed he has local support staff.

Driving Stages: We recommend passing across borders in the group. You may

drive all stages by yourselves. The tour leader offers to go with him/her, or join up with a fellow minded group member.


Road Conditions: The main roads are good and you may experience some roadworks. The side roads will be of all kinds of material, some with potholes.

Overnight Places: The overnight places in Russia are so-called hotel sites. This is the car park at the hotel which gives us the necessary infrastructure. They might be chosen for being a good starting point for the city tour rather than being a holiday site.

Supplies: Electricity, water and grey water disposal are available daily. The Re-Fill of gas bottles may be arranged with the tour leader if really required.

Mobility Rating: 2

See catalogue "Your Journey with Mir Tours" point 7). The required degree of mobility usually only relates to some programmes and segments of the sightseeing. If your walking is not that great, you may still join this trip. To do this, you would skip one or the other programme item or shorten it. We would be happy to discuss the trip with you in this regard. In case you use a tool such as a rollator or travel wheelchair, please note that these may also have to be lifted into the means of transport.

Safety & Security:  Safety is guaranteed on the camping / parking spaces. In the large cities, please watch out for pick-pockets.

Food Supply: 🇪🇺

Supermarkets with a good selection, similar to western standards are available en-route. Gluten- and lactose-free products are available in larger supermarkets.

Climate: 🇪🇺

The average temperature / weather in July is roughly the same as that of Hamburg at the same time.

Clothing: 🇪🇺

Ferry: Not necessary. However, if you want to enter the Baltic States by ferry or return home from Helsinki, we will be happy to inform you.

MONEY MATTERS

Tour Price: 990,- € per person with the own car + caravan or camper when two persons travel in one vehicle. Additional charge for a single driver 10%

Fuel: In Poland and the Baltic States the fuel prices are nearly as high as Central Europe. In Russia the prices are approx. 30% cheaper

Additional costs/travel funds:

Up to 50 € per vehicle for tolls, border fees and insurances
approx. 35 € per person/day to cover your living expenses
Up to 3€ per person/day for tips

Also plan a little buffer for souvenirs, mishaps, doctor etc.

St. Petersburg is no longer one of the 10 most expensive cities in the world - this rank has been taken over by Asian and African cities. Even so, the prices for tourists are still very high. Cultural events and exhibitions are often state subsidized for Russians but not for tourists, as the prices are often even calculated in euros or dollars.

Money Exchange: without problems 🇪🇺 ATM machines are available for use of your debit or credit card.

In Poland, the Baltic States and the major Russian cities, you can pay with a card at petrol stations, souvenir shops and the larger supermarkets.

Hotel / Air / Car Tourists:

We stay on this trip in such a way that you always have the opportunity to sleep in a room on site; We would be happy to make you an individual offer - even if you want to travel directly to St. Petersburg by plane. There are various options from hotel rooms to airport transfers that must be considered when making the calculation.

🇪🇺 = like in Western Europe

🇪🇺 = will be discussed at length during the pre-tour meeting

All this information is subject to change and is meant for this route as part of a group tour. There might be differences if you book an individual tour to these countries.

* The information about visa and travel documents is considering that your passport is issued by Switzerland or in a country that belongs to both the EU and the Schengen area. For the other countries we will inform you individually.

MANDATORY INFORMATION

Cut-off Date: 30.04.2022

On this date we have to decide if sufficient participants to run this tour have been reached. Ideally, you should have booked by this point.

Booking Closes: 30.05.2022

Should you be unable to book earlier, this is the last day that booking is possible under the condition that you bring your documents in time and the required number of participants has been reached at the cut-off date.

Payments due: upon booking 10%
a further 10% is due by 09.05.2022
Final payment due by 03.06.2022

Cancellation fee: in percentage of tour price; is dependent on the time left to the tour start.
as of booking = 10%
day 54. - 30. before tour start = 25%
day 29. - 10. before tour start = 35%
from day 9. before tour start = 75%

GENERAL SERVICES:

Organization & Booking: We order the included programmes for you and book the overnight places. For us – as a registered tour operator – the compliance with travel law is obligatory.

Entry fees for included programme: The tour price includes the normal entry fees for the sights we have put in the programme. Should there be additional parts (special exhibitions) that are not of interest for everyone they might be at your leisure. Example: We visit the Kremlin as part of the Moscow sight-seeing and we pay the entry ticket. Should you opt to see the tsars' weapon chamber you pay this out of your own purse.

Visa /Visa fees (RUS E-Visum) You hand over the required documents. We will fill out the visa form and obtain the necessary visa.

The German and English-speaking **tour leader** will meet you in the afternoon of the first day in Toila and will accompany you until Day 9. His tasks are:

- to inform you regularly about overnight places, meals, stage, fuelling, shopping and leisure options.
- offer to join him on the driving stages.
- give you support in case of mishaps like illness or vehicle break-downs

The **resignation (travel cancellation) insurance** is covering if you cannot go on tour due to an insured reason. The **break-off (travel curtailment) insurance** refunds the part of the tour price that you did not partake in due to an insured reason. More details on insured reasons can be found in the annex.

During the **participant meeting** (including one camping fee) you can get to know other fellow travellers and clarify all open questions about the trip. Approx. 10 days after the physical meeting, we will have a virtual online meeting to clarify any questions that have arisen in the meantime.

Information Material: We create an information booklet for this tour. This informs about all relevant topics from equipment to customs. Forms, brochures, booklets about sites and stages are added by us. Also, you receive GPS waypoints and map material so all participants have the same opportunities.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

When putting this trip together, we are still in the situation that the SARS-Covid19 pandemic is affecting our lives and travels. Please note our general information on this topic in the travel catalogue, as well as our **Corona** promise.

We assume that everyone who goes on a group trip has also taken advantage of the vaccination offer in order to protect themselves and their fellow travellers from infection. Unvaccinated persons could be refused entry or, when crossing the border - regardless of the direction - may be quarantined, which cannot be reconciled with the travel plan. Should you suffer from a medical condition that prohibits a vaccination, please contact us.

The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU and the only recently concluded contracts for future cooperation may result in changes to the travel documents required. Please also note that there is a special information available for **customers from the UK**.

This trip takes place during the **summer holidays**. Because of the favourable date, this would also be a tour to bring a school-age child with a cultural interest. The price for a **child** as a second or third person up to and including the age of 14 is € 490; for **teenagers** aged 15 to 17 the price is € 740.

Programme:

Day 1 03.07.2022

Toila

The tour begins with the tour leader welcoming the participants. In a small meeting, some questions about the tour logistics will be clarified. Before the joint dinner, the border crossing to Russia is discussed and the necessary papers distributed.

overnight fee, dinner

Day 2 04.07.2022

Toila - Kronstadt

Driving day: You leave the EU via the Estonian-Russian border at Narva / Ivangorod which the group masters together. Once processed you may drive to the parking space near Kronstadt via the M11 alone or in small groups. After the vehicles have been set up and you have settled in, we take a short tour so that you know where the next ship, restaurant or bus stop is.

overnight fee, stroll

Day 3 05.07.2022

Kronstadt

First, we explore the island of Kotlin in the Finnish Gulf by bus and tour guide. Here, in 1703, Peter the Great founded the town of Kronstadt as a naval base on the Baltic Sea in order to be able to defend the access to the then Russian capital. The cathedral, which can be seen from Petersburg on a clear day, bears witness to these times. Kronstadt retained its importance during the Soviet era and was - due to the submarines stationed there - a restricted area until 1996. We visit parts of the historic old town and the cathedral. Then it goes to Peterhof, one of the most beautiful Tsar's summer residences, whose magnificent park with water features, according to the statement of the contemporary French ambassador, even surpasses Versailles. But don't forget your sunglasses, otherwise you run the risk of being almost dazzled by the sheen of the countless fountains and the shimmering water upon arrival. After visiting the park, you will have free time to stroll through the park.

overnight fee, bus, local guide, entrance fee

Day 4 06.07.2022

Kronstadt

A trip by bus to the southwestern suburb of Pushkin, also known as Tsarskoye Selo (Tsar's Village). Here is the Catherine Palace with a large park. Built by his wife Katharina during the time of Peter the Great, the Catherine Palace was extensively expanded and embellished, especially by Catherine II the Great. In addition to some

private and representative rooms, we will of course visit the reconstructed Amber Room. Afterwards, there is time for individual exploration of the extensive park facilities. The grotto, the Cameron Gallery, or the Hermitage are the most important buildings in the park, along with bathhouses and pavilions. Of course, you can also spend your free time in Pushkin. There are various references to the famous poet, an interesting farmers market and various places to stop for a break. In the late afternoon we are back at our vehicles.

overnight fee, bus, local guide, entrance fee

Day 5 07.07.2022

Kronstadt - St. Petersburg

On the southern way into the city you can visit other palace complexes: The Menshikov Palace in Oranienbaum. It was the home of Catherine the Great for some time. Garden lovers will get their money's worth here in Pavlovsk. On the northern route to the centre, one drives quite close to the Gazprom headquarters, the Lakhta center. The striking tower has been the tallest building in Europe since 2018. When the catalogue was printed, the construction work was completed and commissioning is imminent. Perhaps you can already be one of the first visitors to the 357-meter-high visitor platform. In the late afternoon we meet at the parking lot near the city to discuss the logistics and the program for the coming days.

overnight fee

Day 6 08.07.2022

St. Petersburg

Full-day tour by bus and local guide: the local guide will explain something about the city's history to you on the way to the centre. You will then see the great Nevsky Prospect, the Kazan Cathedral, the Admiralty, the Russian Museum, Grand Hotel "Europa" and the "Blood Church" before you are given time to stroll through the souvenir market. Then it goes to the Decembrist Square with the monument to Peter the Great (Brazen Rider) and to Isaac's Cathedral, which is visited. From there the journey continues with interruptions over the Dworzowij Bridge to the stock exchange, the Rostral Columns, the Naval Cadet School as well as the armoured cruiser "Aurora" and the Smolnij Monastery. The tour of the city ends not far from the Hermitage, which we visit for about two hours. The tour guide will then arrange a meeting point with you for later, so that everyone can follow their own interests.

overnight fee, bus, local guide, entrance fee, lunch

Day 7 09.07.2022

St. Petersburg

Today we go back together to explore the city's most famous street, Nevsky Prospect. Visit the Church of the Redeemer Blood or the Singer House with a cafe, book and souvenir shops. Alternatively, stroll up the street to the St. Catherine Basilica in front of which the painters sell their pictures. Those who want to "do big shopping" will find plenty of shops in Gostiny Dvor, the former market hall. Eliseev deli, a little further up the street, has existed since 1812 and offers fine groceries and several restaurants. If you have not yet been to a stolovaya, this would also be a possibility, as it is a kind of canteen where you can have lunch quickly and cheaply. In the evening we go to the Nikolai palace together to attend a folklore performance.

overnight fee, transfer, stroll, folklore

Day 8 10.07.2022

St. Petersburg

After the many visits, which were not only full of impressions, but also exhausting, you shouldn't take a break today. The day is at leisure. Everyone uses it as they see fit. Because of the good connection, it is also no problem to go to the city for a stroll on your own. The tour guide can help you with all the information you need. St. Petersburg has over 100 museums and there is sure to be something for everyone. In the evening a meal awaits you to complete the programme of this special trip.

overnight fee, dinner

Day 9 11.07.2022

St. Petersburg

We part ways. You have to start your journey home today. Leave via Ivangorod to Narva (EST) or alternatively travel to Finland via Torfyanovka, Brusnichnoe or Svetogorsk. Either way, you must have left Russia by midnight. If you have decided on the 30-day tourist visa in advance, you can extend it on site or continue exploring Russia. We wish you a safe journey home and a lot of fun with your onward journey.

As per 12/2021
Subject to change