IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE LAST RUSSIAN TSAR

July 23 — Aug 5, 2018

Monday, July 23, 2018
Arrival to St. Petersburg. Transfer to the hotel. Rest. Dinner and orientation

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

We will start our day with a visit to the Smolenskoye Cemetery where the famous Russian Saint and heavenly patron of St. Petersburg, St. Xenia, is buried. After our visit and moleben service to St. Xenia, we will stop by SS. Peter and Paul Fortress located in the very heart of St. Petersburg. The day the ground was broken to build this first stronghold in the newly regained Russian land became the birthday of St. Petersburg. Near the fortress – which also serves as a final resting place for the Russian Rulers of the Romanov dynasty - there is a very interesting museum of the Political history of Russia. A tour through the museum will help us to understand the political and social environment of the last days of the Russian Empire. Our final visit of the day will be to Yusupov Palace. Once it was the residence of the wealthiest Russian family, and the place where one of the most controversial figures of Russia, Gregory Rasputin, was assassinated.
**Wednesday, July 25, 2018**

This morning we will travel a bit outside of St. Petersburg to explore the “naval/marine” suburb. Here we will visit the **apartment of St. John of Kronstand**, and magnificent Neo-Byzantine **Cathedral of St. Nicholas**, envisioned and built with the with the blessing of “batyshka” John. From Kronstad we will transfer to **Tzarskoe Selo**, imperial residence since the 18th century. Here we will visit three very special sites:

- **Alexandrovsky palace**, the actual residence of the last Russian Emperor, where he was placed under the house arrest upon his abdication and prior to his exile.
- **Fedorovsky Cathedral**, along with the Museum of WWI (rapid entry into the World War of unprepared country lead to its demise and eventual dissolution).
- The re-built **Cathedral of St. Catherine**, with the **relics of St. John Kochurov**, one of the first among new martyrs and Confessors of Russia.

**Thursday, July 26, 2018**

We will start our day with a visit to **St. Nicholas Cathedral**, a true baroque jewel of the 18th century Imperial Russia. From there we will proceed to the near-by **Cathedral of St. Isaac**, one of the world’s largest domed Cathedrals. Never a parish church, it was built as a dedication to the Heavenly Patron of Peter the Great, St. Isaac of Dalmatia. The cathedral is very Western in style, but adorned with truly Eastern lavishness. After an early lunch, we will continue onto the **State Hermitage**, once the Winter Palace of the Russian Tsars, which houses one of the world’s largest collections of Fine Arts. Countless artifacts on exhibit cover the evolution of Art from the Neolithic time and Ancient Egypt up until the beginning of the 20th century. We will finish our day at **St. John of Rila Monastery** on Karpovka River. It was founded by Saintly Priest John of Kronstadt. Here in the convent he found his resting place as well.

**Friday, July 27, 2018**

During our last day in St. Petersburg we will visit the **Cathedral dedicated to our Lady Fedorovskaya**, that was built in 1913 to commemorate the third centennial anniversary of the Romanov dynasty. Not far from the Cathedral there is the most famous monastery in St. Petersburg - **Alexander-Nevsky Lavra** - a beautiful monastery that at one point was one of the biggest and famous in Imperial Russia. We will tour the grounds of the Monastery, including the magnificent **Cathedral of the Holy Trinity** that houses **relics of St. Alexander Nevsky**. In the cemetery of the monastery known as **Necropolis of Artists**, many famous Russians are buried, among them: Karamzin, Dostoevsky, Chaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Kustodiev and many others. After lunch, we will visit a **Russian Museum**, with the most excellent collection of
Russian Art from Byzantine origins to the beginning of the 20th century. Practically adjacent to the Museum stands the famous "Savior of the Spilt Blood," or Holy Resurrection Cathedral, that was built to commemorate Russian Tsar Alexander II who was mortally wounded on that very place by terrorists. It is magnificently decorated on the outside with tablets on which Tsar Alexander’s laws and orders are inscribed, along with the dates of the most important events that had taken place during his reign. The interior of the Cathedral is completely covered with mosaics. In the evening, we will transfer to the train station for the departure for Moscow.

Saturday, July 28, 2018
We will start our day with a visit to Moscow’s Kremlin. (Kremlin is a general term used to describe the strongly fortified central part of the Medieval Russian City). Moscow’s Kremlin is a true Pride of Russia. Among many other special attractions here we will visit Uspenskiy (Dormition) Cathedral, once the place of the installation of the Russian Patriarchs and Crowning of the Tsars. The Patriarch's Palace contains some unique historical and ecclesiastic Artifacts. After the Kremlin, we will visit the Red Square – with its iconic "picture of Russia," the famous Cathedral of St. Basil. Our last stop today will be at the Sretenskiy Monastery on Lubyanka Square that wondrously combines venerable antiquity with magnificent modernity.

Sunday, July 29, 2018
We will attend Divine Liturgy in Semhoz, a church built on the place where Fr. Alexander Men, famous Russian Missionary and religious writer, was assassinated. From here we will continue to a nearby town of Sergiev Posad, to visit famous Holy Trinity Lavra (Monastery). The monastic settlement here was established by St. Sergius in the 14th century and became the single most important spiritual center of all of Russia. We will have time to explore the territory of the monastery with many churches and adjacent territory with a number of little shops.

Monday, July 30, 2018
Today we plan to visit several important monuments of Moscow. First stop will be at Novospasskiy Monastery, beautifully preserved complex of the 17th century. The Monastery was under the patronage of the Romanov Family even before they became the Russian ruling dynasty. Then onto Donskoy
Monastery famed not only for its important historical role, but also as a place of imprisonment and entombment of Saintly Patriarch Tikhon, and the burial place of the Russian dissident and writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn. After lunch, we will visit Novodevichiy Monastery, one of the Russian sites from the UNESCO list and Christ the Savior Cathedral, the largest functioning Orthodox Church in the World. This magnificent building was demolished in the 1930s, but has been rebuilt in recent years, becoming a symbol of change in the country and the resurrection of the religious life in all of Russia.

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Our morning will be a sharp contrast of two sites. First one is Butovo. Here, in the place of the NKVD-KGB killing fields a memorial complex was built to commemorate thousands of innocents who perished from the hands of the Godless Communist regime. Right after that we will proceed to the Church of the Nativity of the Mother of God in Yasenevo, a newly built church. The history of its construction is truly awe inspiring, as it was quite literally built by the hands and donations of the thousands of simple folks, the residents of the area. After lunch, we will stop by SS. Martha and Mary Convent, established by Grand Duchess and Royal Martyr Elizabeth. On the grounds of the convent, her apartment was lovingly restored and turned into her memorial. Just a short walk from here, there is the Tretyakov gallery that houses a very fine collection of Russian art from the 10th to the 20th centuries. In the attached museum church, we will see the miracle-working “patron” Icon of Russia, Our Lady of Vladimir.

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

This morning we will board our flight for Yekaterinburg, where the Family of Royal martyrs was crowned with the crown of martyrdom. Upon our arrival around Noon, we will have a tour of the city that will include visits to the historical Holy Trinity and the Forerunner Cathedrals, New Tikhvin Monastery, memorial dedicated to the Royal Family and the Museum that explored the history of the stone mining in the Urals. We will finish our day with a tour of the Cathedral on Spilt Blood, built on the spot of the Ipatiev house, place of the brutal execution of the Family of the last Russian Emperor.

Thursday, August 2, 2018

Early in the morning, we will attend Divine Liturgy at the monastery built nearby “Ganina Yama”, supposed place of the disposal of the martyrs’ bodies. At the monastery, there is a small museum dedicated to the Royal Family. Around Noon we will start of transfer to Nizniy Tagil, stopping on the way at the town of Nev’yansk to see the Transfiguration Cathedral, “leaning tower” and a local museum. By evening we will arrive to Nizhniy Tagil, our home for next two nights.
Friday, August 3, 2018

This morning we will explore the city of Nizhniy Tagil and several local museums. After lunch, we will travel to Verhoturye, to visit and to pray at the monastery of St. Simeon, one of the largest and most famous monasteries in the entire Ural Region. The grandiose Cathedrals of the monastery built some 100 years ago, would conquer the imagination of the visitors even in the capital cities, let alone pilgrims to a small township “in the middle of nowhere”.

Saturday, August 4, 2018

On the way back to Ekaterinburg, we will make a few stops, the most famous of them being at the Monastery of New Martyrs in Alapaevsk where the grand duchess Elizabeth, along with few other members of the Romanov family, was executed. On the outskirts of Alapaevsk in the village of Nizhnyaya Sinyachiha Village, there is a Museum of Wooden Architecture, where most representative buildings – houses, barns, and churches, have been assembled to give an idea of the Ural village living. The final stop of the day before checking into the hotel will be at the Museum of gold mining in Berezovsk. After that we will check in at our hotel in Ekaterinburg for dinner and overnight.

Sunday, August 5, 2018

Departure back home.
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOUR:

Financial arrangements:
The current cost of the trip is:
$2,950 per person, in double occupancy in a
group of 25 participants
Single supplement: 900

Price does include:
• Accommodations in "****" hotels in St.
Petersburg, Moscow, Ekaterinburg and Tagil
• Breakfast, lunch daily and five dinners (total
of 30 meals)
• Private bus transportation whenever required
• High speed train (Sapsan) between St.
Petersburg and Moscow
• Flight from Moscow to Yekaterinburg (less
taxes and fuel surcharges, as they are
determined at the time of the actual purchase
of the ticket)
• All admissions to the scheduled museums*.
• Professional English speaking tour guides
• Whisper Audio Guide System
• English speaking guide/escort during the
entire tour
• Visa application documents

Price does not include:
• Personal health/accident insurance
• International airfare tickets*
• Transportation to and from the airport in
Russia if traveling separately from the group
• Fee for Russian visa**
• Private transfers, additional (optional) tours
and tickets to unscheduled show/concerts or
museums.
• Some newly introduced fees that may occur
in certain places (monasteries or churches)
• Tips to bus drivers and tour guides (Minimal
suggested amount per person is $2 per day for
bus drivers and $3 for local tour guides. Your
generosity will be always greatly
appreciated)
• Anything that is not specifically mentioned in
“Price includes”

* All the necessary paperwork and instructions
for Visa Process will be provided in due time.
We also may be able to assist you with the Visa
application process. For details, please contact
Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky

** Tickets for evening folk shows, theater, opera
and ballet performances will be offered
according to the schedule and availability in
Moscow and St. Petersburg.
Please factor that the final price may fluctuate
due to the actual number of participants or due
to significant difference in exchange rate of
ruble vs. the US dollar at the time of the final
payment. Our hope is that the price of the tour
will remain the same. In any case you’ll be
informed right away of any possible financial
changes or adjustments.

All payments should be made by check to:
"Palomnik, LLC" and mailed to: 812 Taylor Dr,
Vestal, NY 13850. Any returned checks are
subject to $25 fee. For payment with a Credit
Card and for domestic or international bank
wires, please contact Fr. Ilya directly.

A deposit of $800 is required when you
sign up for the trip. The deposit is non-
refundable, unless pilgrimage is cancelled by the
organizers due to lack of participation or for
some other valid or unforeseen circumstance. In
order to avoid any money loss, emergency/travel
cancellation insurance strongly recommended.

The deadline for signing up for the trip is
March 1, 2018. The entire amount is due 90 days
prior to departure, April 23, 2018. Failure to pay
in full by April 23, 2018 without written notice
of explanation may lead to the cancellation of
your participation, with no refund of any
previously committed funds. If you decide to
join the pilgrimage after the deadline, please
contact tour coordinator regarding the
availability.

If you need to cancel after you signed up,
please note the schedule of charges in addition
to the amount of non-refundable deposit:
• 25% of the tour cost, 90 to 61 days prior to
the departure
• 50% of the tour cost, 61 to 45 days prior to
the departure
• 100% of the tour cost 45 or fewer days prior
to the departure
All cancellations must be in writing and sent
directly to coordinator of the tour - Fr. Ilya
Gotlinsky and must be received for
reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule.

If your visa is denied for any reason, the above cancellation fees still apply.

**Passport and Visa:**
A valid passport and Russian visa are necessary for travel to Russia. The passport must be issued at least three months prior to the departure and must be valid for at least six months upon your return.

The visa may be obtained through the Russian Embassy in Washington D.C., your regional Russian Consulate General or at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in your country. You may apply for visa personally or via accredited agency. You must have an invitation from an agency in Russian to obtain Russian entry visa. To receive such invitation you must provide us with your full name, date and place of birth, number of your passport and your permanent address. Upon receiving the invitation, all the necessary forms for the visa (invitation form and hotel vouchers, visa application, instructions on how to file for the Russian visa and the list of the Russian official offices where you can obtain visa) will be mailed to you directly. We are willing to help you to apply for the Russian visa. If you apply for the Russian visa yourself, please make sure that the name and dates on your visa are accurate. All possible discrepancies must be corrected while still at home in the US, prior to the departure.

**Rules on the road:**
It is strongly suggested that you

- Obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage of personal property
- Be aware that financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility.
- Act in a manner consistent with the surrounding environment
- Make arrangements to have access to sufficient funds to cover personal needs and unexpected events
- Be aware that the places that we will be visiting may not have the same amenities that you are accustomed to. Medical facilities in most areas are limited. Because of the difference in language and customs, it is expected that the traveler will follow the directions of the Tour Director at all times.

The Director reserves the right to restrict a person’s participation in the group’s activities, including exclusion from the group, when, in the opinion of the Director, such action is appropriate.

**Please note:** The Director of the tour, Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky, does not hold any legal responsibilities concerning any of the arrangements, but acts only as a coordinator.

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