

All Gay Russian Tsars

8 Days

July 24–31, 2010

Moscow to St. Petersburg

From \$2895 USD

You might be surprised by the elegance of Russia. St. Basil's Cathedral lords over Red Square like a glittering multi-colored confection. Gilded corridors of the Hermitage host breathtaking art. Even Moscow's metro brims with the ornate. Join Hermes on our luxurious journey and we'll unveil Churchill's "riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma" as we sample cultural delicacies, explore fortresses once forbidden to visitors, and meet a people who eagerly look to the future.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- **2 Moscow Tours**, including Tverskaya Street, Red Square, Kremlin, Tretyakov Gallery, Russian Metro
- **St. Petersburg Tour**, including Peter & Paul Fortress & St. Isaac's Cathedral
- **Petrodvorets**
- **Hermitage Museum Tour**
- **Gay night out in St. Petersburg**

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1 - Saturday, July 24 - Depart

Fly overnight to Moscow, Russia.

Day 2 - Sunday, July 25 - Arrival (D)

Upon arrival in Moscow, you will be assisted to your hotel. This evening join us for our Hermes welcome dinner.

Day 3 - Monday, July 26 - Moscow & Kremlin (B)

We begin our Moscow exploration with a stroll along Tverskaya Street. Along this third most expensive commercial street in the world, we'll see masterpieces of pre-Stalin modernist architecture. We pass by the former KGB headquarters, the famed Bolshoi Theater, and the sprawling Red Square. Our tour culminates within the secret fortress of the Kremlin.

Day 4 - Tuesday, July 27 - Tretyakov Gallery & Moscow Metro - Depart for St. Petersburg (B)

Today we view the magnificent collection of art at the famous Tretyakov Gallery. Then venture underground to marvel at more of the city's socialist-realist art in the metro system, adorned with sculptures, glass, marble and chandeliers. It's said that on some lines you can determine the direction of trains by the gender of the announcer! This evening we board our overnight train to St.

Petersburg.

Day 5 - Wednesday, July 28 - St. Petersburg (B)

We tour the canal-lined "Venice of the North" today, including Peter & Paul Fortress, St. Isaac's Cathedral, and more. The afternoon is free for you to explore this elegant city on your own.

Day 6 - Thursday, July 29 - Petrodvorets (B)

Today we visit Petrodvorets, the glorious Summer Palace of the Russian Tsars and a favorite retreat of Peter the Great. This palace and park complex on the Gulf of Finland is known for its stately parks, marble statues, beautiful fountains and gorgeous interiors. We return to our hotel this afternoon for some free time.

Day 7 - Friday, July 30 - St. Petersburg (B, D)

Today is a highlight of the trip as we explore the Hermitage Museum. Catherine the Great started this collection in 1764 with 317 paintings. Today, it holds the largest collection of paintings in the world. This evening join our Hermes farewell dinner and say "Do svidanya" to your new friends. Then enjoy a night on the town as we discover St. Petersburg's gay nightlife.

Day 8 - Saturday, July 31 - Depart for Home (B)

Our tour ends today.

- **First-class overnight sleeper train travel** between Moscow and St. Petersburg
- Accommodations for 5 nights in luxury 5-star hotels
- Services of a Hermes Tours escort
- Services of an expert, local guide in all cities
- Entrance fees to all sites visited
- **\$100 per person savings if you reserve 5 months before departure!**

RUSSIA



Trip Info

Dates: July 24–31, 2010

Group Size: Maximum of 18

Grade: Leisure

Transport: Aircon mini-bus, first-class, private compartment on overnight train.

Accommodation: 5 nights in luxury 5-star hotels, 1 night in a first-class sleeper train.

Meals: Breakfast daily and 2 dinners (D).

Prices (USD): \$2995.

Single supplement: \$890. Or Hermes Tours can match you with another traveller and waive the single supplement.

Includes: All accommodation as listed; all activities and meals as listed; airport transfers on designated arrival and departure days.

Not Included: International air to/from Moscow/St. Petersburg, visas if required, meals and activities not specifically included in itinerary. Any items of a personal nature such as telephone, laundry, alcohol as well as customary tips to your driver and tour guides and Hermes Tours escort.

Hotels:

Moscow: Le Royal Meridien National 5*, centrally located across from Red Square.

St. Petersburg: The Sokos Palace Bridge 5*

Further Info: See our website: www.hermestours.com

