

REED RUSSIA TOUR
5-20 MAY 2012
Dr. Judson Rosengrant

This is the eighth East-European tour sponsored by the Reed Russian Department and Alumni Office, and it is offered as a survey of Russian culture from its beginnings through the modern era, with emphasis, this time, on Russia's rich literary heritage. We will visit the country's two largest cities, the present capital, Moscow, and the former one, St. Petersburg, and make overnight trips to Yasnaya Polyana (Clear Glade) and Novgorod the Great, the first the picturesque and culturally numinous estate and burial place of Leo Tolstoy, and the second the oldest Russian city and the home of superb architecture from the eleventh through the seventeenth centuries, including ancient monasteries, epicenters of the Orthodox Christianity that helped to lay the foundations of Russian culture over a millennium ago (the East Slavs were converted by the Byzantines in 988) and that retains an important place in it today.

Established in 1147 by Prince Yury Dolgoruky, a scion of the Kievan dynasty that ruled the East Slavs from the ninth to the thirteenth century when it fell to the Mongols and their nearly two-hundred year Yoke or domination, Moscow is today a vibrant world city that holds fast to its deep history even as it moves ahead to the rhythms of the twenty-first century. We will acquaint ourselves with Moscow's most remarkable sites, including Red Square and the Kremlin with its splendid fifteenth- and sixteenth-century cathedrals and superb Armory historical museum; the lovely New-Maiden Convent (founded 1524); the State Tretyakov Gallery, the country's largest collection of Russian art, with works from the first third of the twelfth century through the early twentieth; and the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, with its outstanding holdings in European painting and sculpture, including masterpieces of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism, thanks to the Moscow collectors Sergei Shchukin and Ivan Morozov, who were among the first, East or West, to recognize the significance of the new art. Besides Moscow's most important museums and historical sites, we will also visit the Tolstoy and Chekhov literary museums and, on an individual basis, attend evening shows at the Bolshoi and Moscow Art Theaters, among the other distinguished performance and concert venues that will be available to us.

After our four days in Moscow and overnight trip to Yasnaya Polyana, we will proceed by bullet train to St. Petersburg, the magnificent Baltic capital founded in 1703 by Peter the Great. St. Petersburg is one of Europe's youngest major cities, but it is also among its most beautiful and dramatic, with many impressive eighteenth-century structures of great historical interest. Besides its role as the imperial capital from 1713 to 1918 and its central place in the history of the Soviet period, when it was called Leningrad (1924-91), St. Petersburg is a Mecca of art, thanks to the presence in its enormous Baroque Winter Palace of what is universally recognized as one of the world's greatest art institutions, the State Hermitage museum, with stupendous exhibits representing virtually every stage of European fine and applied art from Greek and Roman antiquity through the Renaissance and the modern era, including masterpieces by Leonardo, the largest assemblage of Rembrandts outside the Netherlands, and, thanks again to Shchukin and Morozov, whose collections were divided between the Pushkin Museum and the Hermitage, especially fine

works by Cézanne, Picasso, and Matisse, among many other leading modern figures. We will reserve a full day for the Hermitage, although it is truly inexhaustible, and also visit the State Russian Museum, the apartment-museums of Fyodor Dostoevsky and Anna Akhmatova, and the suburban palace of Peter the Great in Peterhof and, in the nearby town of Pushkin, the so-called Catherine Palace, perhaps the most impressive of the tsars' summer residences. Besides its great museums and remarkable historical sites, St. Petersburg is also the home of the several distinguished performance and concert halls, including the renowned Mariinsky Theatre, founded in 1783 by Catherine II, the Great (1729-96), and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, and they will all, as in Moscow, be available to us as evening options.

While in St. Petersburg we will take an overnight trip to Russia's oldest city, Novgorod the Great, established in 862 as a Norse trading center along the system of inland waterways connecting Scandinavia to Byzantium, and part of the domain of Kievan Rus until the late twelfth century, when it became an independent city-state with ties to the Baltic Hanseatic League. In dramatic contrast to Baroque and Neoclassical St. Petersburg with its emphatic, even programmatic Western orientation (its brilliant eighteenth-century buildings are chiefly the work of Italians), Novgorod possesses one of the finest ensembles of East Slavic medieval architecture, including the Novgorod kremlin and its crown, the Cathedral of Holy Sophia, or Holy Wisdom, built in the mid-eleventh century and harking back through Kiev to the fourth-century Byzantine Hagia Sophia of Constantinople.

But remarkable historical sites, superlative museums, and extraordinary architecture of complex cultural purpose and symbolism are only part of our program, with its inevitable movement between the modern and the medieval, the familiar and the exotic, the urban and the rural, the sophisticated and the popular, and the secular and the ecclesiastic, as permeable as the boundary between those last two realms has often been over the thousand years of East Slavic and Russian civilization.

The tour is open to any, young or old, student, parent, alumnus, alumna, or friend who wishes to learn more about Russia and its fascinating history and remarkable architecture, art, literature, and music and their vital place in the modern world. No knowledge of the Russian language is necessary, since the tour will at every stage enjoy the benefit of English-speaking guides selected both for their linguistic skill and their expert knowledge of the local history and lore.

The tour organizer and leader, Judson Rosengrant, has taught Russian language, literature, and culture at Reed, the University of Southern California, and Indiana University, and, as a two-time Fulbright Senior Scholar, translation theory and practice at St. Petersburg State University. He holds graduate degrees in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Stanford University and has received post-doctoral fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, Harvard University, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is an award-winning literary and scholarly editor and translator of Russian literature and historiography, among whose current projects are an English edition of the autobiography of the twentieth-century master Alexander Solzhenitsyn and, forthcoming in April from Penguin Classics, a new translation and edition of Tolstoy's *Childhood, Boyhood, Youth*. This will be the eleventh East-European tour he has organized and led.

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Please be aware that while the provisional flights indicated below assume a Portland departure and return on Air France and its code-share partner Delta and Alaska Airlines, you may embark from any city or use any carrier you wish, providing your arrival in Moscow is coordinated with that of the group. See page 15 for details.

All questions, payments, and documentation should be directed to the tour organizer:

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April 2012
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ITINERARY AND PROGRAM

Day 1	Sat., May 5	Portland-Seattle-Paris			
	LV PDX	AF9685	10:30	DHC-8	0h49
	AR SEA		11:19		
	LV SEA	AF3639	13:10	B767	10h25

Day 2	Sun., May 6	Paris-Moscow			
	AR CDG		08:35		
	LV CDG	AF1944	09:35	A320	3h40
	AR SVO		15:15		

Transfer by coach to the *Holiday Inn Sokolniki*, with guide

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Group orientation and free time

Day 3 Mon., May 7 Moscow

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Bus tour of the city, with guide

Tverskaya Street (formerly Gorky Street), Pushkin Square, Sparrow Hills and Moscow University, Park of Arts (Fallen Idols), Red Square and St. Basil's Cathedral, including interior, and GUM ('Main Department Store')

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Excursion to the Kremlin, with guide

The Kremlin (the English is a variant on the Russian word for citadel) is of course the actual and symbolic seat of the Russian government, but it is also a historical and architectural site of exceptional beauty. We will tour the interior of the structure, which in its original earth and log form dates from the founding of Moscow in the late-twelfth century, and visit the splendid Armory Palace historical museum and the ensemble of Orthodox churches at the heart of the complex, including the Cathedral of the Assumption (or Dor-

mitation, 1475-79), the Cathedral of the Annunciation (1484-89), and the Cathedral of the Archangel (1505-08), the burial place of the tsars until the early eighteenth century, when Peter the Great moved the government to his newly built capital of St. Petersburg and was himself interred there in its Peter and Paul Cathedral (see Day 9).

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time, or optional performance at the Bolshoi Theatre or other performance or concert venue

Closed since 2005 for what by all accounts has been a spectacular, historically scrupulous renovation costing \$760 million, the 1824 main hall of the venerable Bolshoi Ballet and Opera Company (it was founded in 1776) reopened last October. As of this writing (January), the theater's May schedule has been published, with tickets going on sale next month. As with the other main performance venues in Moscow and St. Petersburg, participants will have an opportunity to order tickets in variety of price and seat categories.

Day 4 Tues., May 8 Moscow

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Excursion to the State Tretyakov Gallery, including the Church of St. Nicholas on Tolmachev Street, with guide

Founded in 1856, the Tretyakov Gallery is one of the country's two principal collections of Russian art, with over 130,000 paintings, sculptures, and graphic works, ranging from eleventh-century Byzantine and fourteenth-century Russian icons, including masterpieces by Theophanes the Greek and Andrey Rublyov, through nineteenth-century realist portraiture and narrative painting, with celebrated canvases by Repin, Kramskoy, and Serov, and ending in the early twentieth century, with works by Vrubel and Bakst, among many other important figures. Thanks to the quality and diversity of its holdings and their skillful presentation, the Tretyakov Gallery offers excellent insight into the origins of Russian national culture and its development—its evolving themes and orientations—over the last nine hundred years.

The Church of St. Nicholas on Tolmachev Street is both a newly restored wing of the museum and, with characteristic Russian syncretism, a place of worship. It houses one of the oldest and certainly one of the most revered icons in Russian Christendom, the Vladimir Theotokos or Mother of God, painted in Constantinople in the early twelfth century—at once an exquisite work of art, a national palladium (Ivan the Terrible's 1552 victory over the Mongol Tatar khanate at Kazan was attributed to its sacred power), and a holy object expressive of the most profound spiritual values. Its geographical his-

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Excursion to Novodevichy (New-Maiden) Convent and museum and cemetery, with guide

Established in 1524 as a cloister for noblewomen, Novodevichy Convent consists of an ensemble of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century buildings of extraordinary charm, including the Cathedral of Our Lady of Smolensk, built in 1524-25. The working convent's cemetery is one of the country's most distinguished and contains the graves of the writers Gogol, Chekhov, Mayakovsky, Bulgakov, and Yury Olesha, the film director Sergey Eisenstein, the composer Shostakovich, the pianist Svyatoslav Richter, the ballerina Galina Ulanova, and the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, among many other important nineteenth- and twentieth-century figures.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time, or optional performance

Day 6 Thurs., May 10 Moscow-Yasnaya Polyana

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Transfer by coach to the *Hotel Yasnaya Polyana*, a distance of about 125 miles, with guide

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Tour of the Tolstoy home and estate, with local guide

Yasnaya Polyana, near the city of Tula and now a memorial museum and nature preserve, is the estate where Tolstoy was born, raised, and buried. It is the most important place in his personal and creative life, the beloved home and refuge where he spent some seventy of his eight-two years, wrote *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, among numerous other works, and engaged in the educational activities to which he devoted himself for much of his life. The estate figures in one form or another in many of his works, and its parts have been carefully preserved—the residence (rebuilt in the 1850s) with its fascinating personal effects and large library; the peasant school Tolstoy organized; and the large park with his starkly simple grave. Together with Pushkin's estate Mikhailovskoye near the town of Pskov, it is one of Russia's most sacred cultural sites and sure to be a high point of our trip.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Lecture-seminar and free time.

Day 7 Fri., May 11 Yasnaya Polyana-Moscow

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Transfer by coach to Moscow and the *Holiday Inn Sokolniki*, with guide

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Free time, or optional excursion with tour leader to the Chekhov Museum-Apartment (open until 20:00), or the State Historical Museum

The Chekhov Apartment-Museum, one metro stop from our hotel, is the home Anton Chekhov occupied with his family from 1866-90 and in which he practiced medicine and wrote his play *Ivanov* and numerous short stories.

The State Historical Museum on Red Square (it occupies the large Victorian structure at the opposite end from St. Basil's Cathedral) was established in 1894 by Tsar Alexander III (1845-94) and depicts the history of Russia from Paleolithic times through the medieval period with a diverse collection that includes many objects of great historical, archaeological, and ethnographic interest.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time, or optional performance

Day 8 Sat., May 12 Moscow-St. Petersburg

Buffet breakfast at hotel

Late morning: Transfer by coach to Leningrad Station, with guide

Depart Moscow for St. Petersburg, a distance of about 440 miles, at 13:30 on the *Sapsan* bullet train (No. 158)

The *Sapsan* (Peregrine Falcon), a recently inaugurated high-speed train built by the German firm Siemens, provides secure daily service between Moscow and St. Petersburg. Operating at speeds of up to 150 mph, it covers the distance in impressive comfort, quiet, and convenience, with fine views of the Russian countryside.

Lunch in the dining car at the traveler's discretion.

Arrive in St. Petersburg at 17:45

Transfer by coach from Moscow Station to the *Holiday Inn Moskovskiyevorota*, with guide

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time

Day 9 Sun., May 13 St. Petersburg

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Bus tour of the city, with guide

Nevsky Prospect, Church of the Savior on the Blood, Palace Square and the Alexander Column, the University, Rostral Columns, the *Bronze Horseman*, and Kazan Cathedral and its interior.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Excursion to the Peter and Paul Fortress and Cathedral, with guide

St. Petersburg was founded in 1703 (it is younger than Boston or New York), and the Peter and Fall Fortress, built to secure the marshy Neva delta on which the new city would eventually rise, was the first large structure to be completed. Its original earthen walls soon replaced by the granite-faced brick we see today, the fortress contains sites of great architectural and historical interest. Chief among them is the Peter and Paul Cathedral, finished in 1733 by the Italian architect Domenico Trezzini in a deliberately Western style meant to symbolize Peter the Great's fundamental reorientation of Russian culture. The cathedral contains the tombs of Peter himself and of most of the members of the Romanov dynasty who succeeded him, including Catherine the Great, Alexander I, and, after a long delay, Nicholas II and the Empress Alexandra and their children and several family retainers, all of whom were shot, burned, and buried in unmarked graves by the Bolsheviks in 1918, but not interred in the cathedral until 1998—an event of great pomp and national symbolism reasserting the deep continuities of Russian history and culture. In addition to the Cathedral, we will visit the Trubetskoy Bastion, dating from the mid-eighteenth century and used by the tsars for political prisoners, including the writers Dostoevsky and Gorky, the assassin of Alexander II, Vera Figner, and the Bolshevik leader Leon Trotsky.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time, or optional performance

As does Moscow, St. Petersburg offers a number of superb performance and concert venues, including the Mariinsky Theater, the new Mikhailovsky Ballet and Opera Theater, and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic. When the May schedules are published, participants will be given, as in Moscow, a chance to select the programs of the greatest interest to them in a variety of price and seat categories.

Day 10 Mon., May 14 St. Petersburg

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Excursion to State Russian Museum, with guide

The Russian Museum in the Mikhailov Palace (built by the Russian architect Karl Rossi in 1819-25) was founded in 1895 and contains the country's second most important collection of Russian art, including superb icons from Novgorod and Pskov dating from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries, the evocative nineteenth-century landscapes of Shishkin and Levitan, the great late nineteenth-century portraits of Repin and Serov, and a charming display of early Russian folk and applied art, among many other objects of exceptional interest. Those looking for serious art books and exhibition catalogues, lacquer boxes, ceramics, and other choice souvenirs will also appreciate the museum's shops and kiosks.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: St. Isaac's Cathedral, with guide.

St. Isaac's Cathedral, an immense granite structure built in 1818-42 to celebrate the Russian victory over Napoleon in 1812, offers a beautifully decorated interior, including an imposing 240-square-foot mural by the Russian master Karl Bryullov, and, from the walkway around the outside of its high dome, a spectacular view of the city.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time, or optional performance

Day 11 Tues., May 15 St. Petersburg

Buffet breakfast at hotel

Morning: Excursion to the State Hermitage museum, with guide

The Hermitage (or *Ermitage*, if you like, since the Russian word is a translit-

eration of the French) is one of the world's greatest museums, with over three million items in its possession. A great many of them are on display in the museum's several interconnected buildings, which include the Baroque Winter Palace, designed and built for the Empress Elizabeth by the Italian architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli in 1730-62, and the so-called Small and Large Hermitages later constructed at the behest of Catherine the Great (reigned 1762-96) to house her private art collection, purchased in 1764, the museum's nominal founding year. Containing works by virtually every major artist in the Western canon, the Hermitage's monumental holdings are far too diverse and comprehensive for brief summary. Among the numerous highlights, however, are the Greek and Roman sculpture, the Leonardo Madonna Litta and Madonna Benois, the twenty-three Rembrandts (the largest assembly outside the Netherlands), the El Grecos, Bruegels, and Van Dykes, and the numerous works by Cézanne, Picasso, and Matisse. The museum truly is a feast for the eyes and mind.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Hermitage continuation, or optional visit with tour leader to the Dostoevsky Museum and adjacent Kuznechny market.

Those wishing to remain at the Hermitage for the day may do so, obtaining lunch on their own in one of the museum's basement cafés. Those wishing to take lunch in the scheduled restaurant, however, may afterward return to the Hermitage or proceed with the tour leader to the Dostoevsky Apartment-Museum with a brief stop on the way at the nearby Kuznechny farmers market, the best in the city.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time, or optional performance

Day 12 Wed., May 16 St. Petersburg-Novgorod

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Transfer to Pushkin for a tour of the Catherine Palace, with guide

Pushkin, or Tsarskoye Selo (Royal Village) as it was known until 1918, lies sixteen miles southeast of St. Petersburg. Of the several summer palaces built for the tsars, those of Tsarskoye Selo are surely the most extravagant—buildings of sumptuous design surrounded by majestic French and English parks. Of particular interest is the Baroque Catherine Palace, begun in 1717-23 but redesigned in 1752-57 for the Empress Elizabeth by Rastrelli as a Russian Versailles, and named for her mother, Catherine I (not to be confused

with the Catherine II, the Great, who despised what she regarded as the building's tasteless excess). We will tour the palace interior, including the remarkable Amber Room.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: transfer by coach to the *Park Inn Veliky Novgorod*, a distance of 110 miles, with guide

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time

Novgorod (New Town), Russia's oldest city, was founded on the Volkhov River by the Varangians (a Viking tribe) in 862 as a trading center along the network of inland waterways that linked Byzantium with the northern Finns and Slavs and, via the Neva and the Baltic, with Scandinavia and ultimately Iceland, Greenland, and North America. After the collapse of Kievan Rus in the late twelfth century, Novgorod, protected by dense northern forests and impassable marshes (at least for cavalry), escaped Mongol dominion to emerge, with its sister city Pskov, as an independent republic linked to the Hanseatic League of Baltic trading partners until it was annexed by Muscovy in the fifteenth century. Because of its great age, early wealth, and fortunate freedom from Mongol attack, Novgorod has retained a remarkable ensemble of ancient buildings, including the oldest stone structure in Russia, the beautiful Cathedral of St. Sophia, begun by Byzantine and Russian craftsmen just fifty-seven years after the conversion of the Kievan princes to Christianity in 988 and still active to this day.

Day 13 Thurs., May 17 Novgorod

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Tour, with local guide, of the Novgorod kremlin (dating, in its initial log form, from 1044), including the Cathedral of St. Sophia (1045-50), the Millennium Monument (1862), and the superb museum of old Russian icons

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Continuation with local guide of our tour of Novgorod, including the ensemble known as Yaroslav's Courtyard dating from the early twelfth century, the exquisite Church of the Transfiguration of the Savior on Ilina Street (1374), the Peryn Cloister and the Church of the Nativity of the Perun Theotokos (early thirteenth century), the Yuriev Monastery by Lake Ilmen

and its Church of St. George (1119), and the nearby museum of wooden architecture, with its fascinating array of archaic domestic buildings open for interior examination.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Lecture-seminar and free time

Day 14 Fri., May 18 Novogord-St. Petersburg

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Transfer by coach to St. Petersburg and the *Holiday Inn Moskovskiye vorota*, with guide

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Free time, or optional excursion to the Akhmatova Apartment-Museum

Those who are interested may join the tour leader for a visit to the Apartment-Museum of the great Russian poet Anna Akhmatova in the Sheremetyev Palace (Fountain House) on the Fontanka River.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time, or optional performance

Day 15 Sat., May 19 St. Petersburg

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Excursion to Peterhof and the Grand Palace, with guide

Peterhof (or Petrodvorets) is the magnificent ensemble of palaces, pavilions, parks, gardens, and fountains facing the Gulf of Finland about eighteen miles southwest of St. Petersburg. Begun by Peter the Great in 1710 with the construction of a small wooden palace, the ensemble we see it today was laid out and built according to Peter's own design by a series of gifted European and Russian architects, landscape architects, and hydraulic engineers, including the French master Jean-Baptiste Le Blond, who guided the project from 1714 to 1719. The Grand Palace and park were finally opened in 1723 as a conspicuous symbol of Russian national wealth and power and of the country's entrance onto the modern European stage. Unfortunately, like much else of precious historical and cultural value in the territory surrounding St. Petersburg, the Grand Palace was gravely damaged during the German siege of the city from 1941 to

1944. The interiors on view are thus a restoration, although one of extraordinary skill and historical accuracy, and promise to be another trip highlight.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Free time

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time, or optional performance

Day 16 Sun., May 20 St. Petersburg-Paris-Seattle-Portland

Box breakfast

Transfer by coach to Pulkovo-2 Airport, with guide

LV LED	AF1153	07:20	A319	3h25
AR CDG		08:45		
LV CDG	AF3622	10:30	B767	11h15
AR SEA		12:45		
LV SEA	AF9686	16:00	DHC-8	0h49
AR PDX		16:49		

COSTS

In-country travel	\$4,560.00
Russian tourist visa	\$200.00
 Total	 \$4,760.00

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The price, which does not include airfare, is a group rate based on an enrollment of twenty passengers, and includes all lodging and registration fees, all meals (except for lunch on Day 8 and any beverages you may order to supplement our menus), airport transfers (unless you opt to arrive and depart separately from the group), all within- and between-city coach and rail service, all entrance tickets to museums and sites indicated in the program (except evening performances and any daytime activities listed as optional), and licensed English-speaking guides trained in the local history and culture. Accommodations are double occupancy in four-star hotels with meals at the same standard with a single room available for an additional \$905.00. A deposit of \$1,000.00 and a completed registration form (page 21, below) will reserve your place, with the balance of your land payment due February 6 (see page 17, below). Both the deposit and balance may be paid by personal check. Once you have committed to the tour with your second payment on February 6, the total in-country cost will be non-refundable, except as provided by any travel insurance you may purchase. If you should withdraw before that deadline, your deposit will be refunded, less \$100.

The Air France round-trip itinerary described above assumes a Portland departure. If it is more convenient for you to embark from another North American city, the tour will, at your request and according to your needs and preferences, make other air arrangements for you, using its resources. If the tour does make those arrangements, you may have the option of scheduling a European layover on the outbound (with departure ahead of the group) or on the inbound (remaining in Europe after the tour ends). You may also delay your departure from St. Petersburg, staying up to the full thirty-day limit of your tourist visa, that is, until June 4 with a May 6 arrival. If you do choose to stay (and it has been a common practice over the years), the tour will at your request secure individual hotel accommodations or a low-cost private apartment or home stay at the daily rate, plus a local finder's fee in the case of an apartment or home stay.

If you wish to take a domestic or European route different from the tour's, or use frequent-flyer miles on Air France (or its partners Delta and Alaska Airlines) or another carrier, you are welcome to make your own arrangements, providing that your arrival in Moscow coincides with the group's and that such arrangements are made in consultation with the tour organizer to ensure logistical viability, transfer security, and the lowest price.

Please note that the tour organizer and his operatives will act only as agents in regard to the transportation, hotel, and other arrangements of the tour, and that they will naturally take every professional care. However, they can accept no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity in connection with the service of any vehicle or conveyance used to carry out the tour program, or for the acts or defaults of any company or person, including the airlines and their employees and representatives, engaged in transporting the participants or in implementing the program.

INSURANCE

All participants are encouraged to purchase travel insurance. The tour has used Travelex Insurance Services over the years, and the company has provided excellent accountability and convenience. Its policies offer a number of benefits, including but not restricted to full trip-cancellation coverage (including reimbursement of any airline penalties), emergency medical and/or evacuation coverage, baggage delay or loss coverage, and supplemental flight accident insurance. Application forms and instructions for, and descriptions of, the available Travelex policies are available online. Although the tour recommends Travelex, you should, to obtain the most favorable price for your age and needs (premiums are calculated according to both), shop for other coverage. The choice of whether or not to insure some or all of your costs is up to you, but our experience over many years (we have been doing this since 2004) leads to our recommendation that you protect your investment. Policy rules will vary both as a general matter and in regard to any pre-existing conditions, but you should bear in mind that your in-country costs will be at risk only after February 6, when you make your second payment and the entire amount becomes nonrefundable. Your airfare exposure will of course commence on the date you purchase of your ticket and in accordance with the airline's rules.

VISA

The Russian visa fee of \$200, included with the balance of your in-country payment, is not refundable under any circumstances. All the required documents (a signed application, one passport photo, and your passport itself) must be submitted to the tour by February 6. Once your application has been processed by the Russian Consulate, your passport with the visa affixed will be returned to you by the tour via secure express courier about three weeks after the receipt of your application. If that schedule will inconvenience you (perhaps you have other foreign travel plans in the meantime?), expedited processing can be arranged for an additional consular fee. If you do anticipate complications, please inform the tour organizer as soon as possible. There are few problems that cannot be solved, providing there is adequate time to address them.

Those enrolling in the tour with a deposit and registration form will in due course receive the visa form required by the Russian Consulate and detailed instructions for its completion. Please be aware, once again, that the Russian Consulate requires your passport *itself*. If you do not have a valid passport, you should obtain one by February 6. Keep in mind that the normal processing time for new US passports is approximately four

weeks. Please be aware too that by Russian consulate rule, your passport must be valid for at least *six months after* the expiration of your thirty-day tourist visa. If your passport will expire within that term (that is, before December 5, 2012), you must obtain a new passport or the consulate will not consider your application. Likewise, your passport must have at least one blank page to which the new visa can be affixed. If it does not, the consulate will again reject your application. If you do need to renew your passport, expect the processing time to be about four weeks, unless you pay to expedite it.

OTHER INFORMATION

Please note that although our program is full, there is ample rest time built in so that the pace will not be strenuous. All the evenings are open, for example, leaving it up to you to select, either before departure or on-site, any after-dinner activities that may appeal to you. Likewise, the afternoons with excursions identified as optional (for example, the visit to the Chekhov or the Dostoevsky apartment-museums) may also be used for rest or more casual or spontaneous activities of your own choosing.

The orientation session after dinner on May 6, and the two lecture-seminars conducted by the tour leader on May 10 (in Yasnaya Polyana) and May 17 (in Novgorod) are meant to provide frameworks for our examination of the historical, cultural and literary background of the tour's various activities, and to help focus the lively conversation about Russia that we will certainly all be engaged in collectively and individually during the fifteen days of our program.

Those committing to the tour will receive after their final payment detailed information about a variety of matters pertaining to travel in Russia and to the tour in particular, including departure and travel instructions (we tend to converge from a variety of embarkation cities), packing suggestions, weather predictions and clothing recommendations, advice on currency and on-site banking, health precautions and resources, safety and security measures, a list of in-country phone numbers and other emergency contacts, and, for the linguistically curious, assistance with the Cyrillic alphabet (although, again, no knowledge of the Russian language is necessary).

ENROLLMENT

Immediately: Submit the tour registration form (page 21, below) and a deposit of \$1,000, per participant, payable by personal check to Paideia Tours;

February 6: Remit the invoiced balance of your in-country payment and visa fee by personal check to Paideia Tours: \$3,760 (or \$4,665 for single accommodations);

February 6: Include a completed and signed visa application, as instructed by the tour, with your passport and one passport-size color photo.

Payments and documents should be sent to the tour organizer at the address indicated on page 3, using Fed-Ex, UPS, or USPS Express Mail (with *signature required*, whatever the courier) for the February 6 submission to ensure safe and timely delivery. Any questions should be directed to the tour leader via phone or e-mail, as indicated on page 3, above.

RECOMMENDED READING

There are numerous guide books for Russia, some providing national coverage and others devoted to particular cities or regions. Among them, I have found the *Rough Guide* series, widely available in paperback, to be among the best sources of practical information: *The Rough Guide to Moscow*, 5th edition (London, 2009) and *The Rough Guide to St. Petersburg*, 6th edition (London, 2008), both by Dan Richardson. Besides a good deal of sensible, up-to-date advice, the *Rough Guides* contain helpful historical summaries, maps (including subway plans), and site and neighborhood descriptions, as well as helpful overviews of the contents and arrangement of the principal museums.

Russian culture is very rich, with a history reaching back to the first millennium CE. The literature in English dealing with that culture is also rich, but the works cited below, all noteworthy for their scholarship and readability, are excellent places to begin. Because of their academic orientation, most have excellent bibliographies (especially Billington and Figes), should you wish to expand your study of any area, and all of them can be used selectively or for reference, thanks to detailed indexes. But if you have time for only one book, then I would recommend Figes's fine cultural history, *Natasha's Dance*, available in paperback.

Social Histories

- 2001. Geoffrey Hosking, *Russia and the Russians: A History* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press). An exhaustive, up-to-date synoptic history based on fresh scholarship.
- 1998. Robert Service, *A History of Twentieth-Century Russia* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press). A careful, up-to-date political and social history.
- 1997. Gregory L. Freeze, ed., *Russia: A History* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press). A highly usable collection of thematic essays by various experts on periods and topics from the rise of Kievan Rus in the ninth and tenth centuries through the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.
- 1992. Richard Pipes, *Russia under the Old Regime*, 2nd ed. (New York: Collier Books). A very interesting, if slightly tendentious, analytical account and interpretation by a major historian that is alert to the diverse factors, including climate and geography, that affected the development of Russian 'character' and culture.

Cultural Histories

2003. Orlando Figes, *Natasha's Dance: A Cultural History of Russia* (New York: Picador). An extremely well researched and highly readable account of Russian culture from the profound transformations of Peter the Great in the eighteenth century through the late Soviet 'stagnation' of Leonid Brezhnev in the twentieth.
1998. Nicholas Rzhevsky, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Russian Culture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). A handbook featuring short articles on a variety of topics.
1970. James A. Billington, *The Icon and the Axe: An Interpretive History of Russian Culture* (New York: Vintage Books). Begins with the rise of Kievan Rus in the ninth and tenth centuries and ends with the Soviet Union in the twentieth, giving especially good treatment to medieval Russian culture; less lively and up-to-date than Figes but with a historical range that reveals the links between the ancient and the modern as few other works do.

Topical Histories

Art and Architecture

2004. William C. Brumfield, *A History of Russian Architecture*, 2nd ed. (Seattle: University of Washington Press). The standard account, with lavish illustrations. See also the University of Washington 'Brumfield Russian Architecture Collection' (<http://depts.washington.edu/ceir/brumfield/>) for a selection of images and text.
1983. George Heard Hamilton, *The Art and Architecture of Russia*, 3rd ed. (New York: Penguin). Although first published in 1954, still the most comprehensive treatment of the subject, with discussions of medieval architecture, icon painting from the tenth to the sixteenth centuries, the art of imperial Russia into the nineteenth century, and early twentieth-century Russian painting and sculpture.
1983. Theofanis George Stavrou, ed., *Art and Culture in Nineteenth-Century Russia* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press). A valuable collection of essays by specialists on a variety of subjects relating to literature, fine and applied art, music, and general cultural issues.
1967. Tamara Talbot Rice, *A Concise History of Russian Art*, 3rd ed. (New York and Washington: Frederick A. Praeger). A lucid and indeed concise survey of Russian art from its beginnings in the first millennium through the modern era.
1962. Camilla Grey, *The Great Experiment: Russian Art, 1863-1922* (New York: Harry N. Abrams). A very well-informed account of the major figures and movements with excellent illustrations.

Literature

2006. Elaine Blair, *Literary St. Petersburg* (New York: The Little Bookroom). A well-written and informed guide to the nineteenth- and twentieth-century figures associated with St. Petersburg and Leningrad, and the principal sites connected with their personal and literary biographies.
1991. Victor Terras, *A History of Russian Literature* (New Haven: Yale University Press). Authoritative synoptic account of the development of Russian literature with short descriptions of authors and works.
1982. Edward J. Brown, *Russian Literature since the Revolution*, revised and enlarged edition (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press). A broad discussion of the major authors and works of twentieth-century Russian literature in the context of Russian literature as an institution and in relation to the social and political events to which it inevitably responded.
1966. D. S. Mirsky, *A History of Russian Literature*, edited and abridged by Francis J. Whitfield (New York: Alfred A. Knopf). A classic discussion by an inexhaustibly well-informed critic of virtually every major figure and work in Russian literature through the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Music

2009. Richard Taruskin, *On Russian Music* (Berkeley: University of California Press). A collection of essays for the musically literate by a leading cultural critic and musicologist.
2002. Francis Maes, *A History of Russian Music: From Kamarinskaya to Babi Yar*, trans. Arnold J. Pomerans and Erika Pomerans (Berkeley: University of California Press). The most up-to-date broad account of the development of Russian music from (as the title obliquely tells us) Glinka in the nineteenth century to Shostakovich in the twentieth.

If you have special areas of interest you would like to investigate before departure, please share them with the tour leader, since he may be able to give you bibliographical and other advice to facilitate your inquiry.