

**REED COLLEGE EAST-EUROPEAN TOUR**  
**26 APRIL – 11 MAY 2014**

This will be the eleventh annual East-European tour sponsored by the Reed Russian Department and Alumni Office. As in previous years, it is offered as a practical survey of East Slavic and Russian culture from its beginnings near the end of the first millennium CE to the rapidly evolving post-Soviet present. In that broadly inquiring spirit, we will make unhurried visits to Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, and Moscow and St. Petersburg, the present and former capital of Russia.

Why those cities in particular? The most obvious reason is that they are important centers—important repositories, thanks to their extraordinary museums—of world culture, as well as communities of enormous vitality and intrinsic interest. But another little appreciated yet no less compelling reason is that they are the principal nodes of the historical development of the East Slavic and Russian world, centers of epochal transformations in its social, economic, and political life and places where its most significant architectural monuments and enduring ideological and social identities were fashioned. To visit the three capitals in succession, moving from the oldest to the youngest, will, if we attend to the details and their shifting contexts, thus be to acquaint ourselves in a reasoned way with the main phases and themes of East Slavic and Russian culture over the thousand or so years of its recorded history.

The roots of Kiev, the mother city of that culture, reach back, as a primitive Dnieper River settlement, at least to the mid-sixth century. But its written history begins in the ninth, when it became the economic, political, and spiritual center of the medieval East Slavic world as the capital of Rus (c. 880-1240), the grand principality founded, as the earliest chronicles tell us, by the Varangians—the Viking or Norse warrior-traders who plied the river system (and preeminently the Dnieper) linking the Baltic and Scandinavia with the Black Sea and the wealth and power of the Byzantine empire and Constantinople.

Chief among Kiev's surviving historical monuments are two World Heritage sites, its oldest church, the stunning Cathedral of Holy Sophia (Holy Wisdom, 1037), built soon after Kievan Rus was converted to Christianity by the Byzantines in 988; and the famous Cave Monastery (founded in 1051), an astonishing ensemble of eleventh-, twelfth-, and eighteenth-century structures standing over the network of subterranean chapels and tombs that gives the monastery its name. Besides thoroughly acquainting ourselves with the abundant historical and cultural attractions of Kiev, we will take a day trip into the Ukrainian countryside and the town of Pereyaslav (dating from 906) for a different look at both the ancient world of Rus and the much more recent Russo-Ukrainian past, including a visit to the museum home of Sholem Aleichem (1859-1916), the great Yiddish writer whose stories enjoy a lively presence in our own culture, due in good part to *Fiddler on the Roof*, the perennially popular musical based on them.

After three days investigating Kiev and its environs, we will proceed by day train to Moscow. Founded in 1147 by Yury Dolgoruky (Long-arm), a scion of the Kievan *Ryurikovichi* (the descendants of Ryurik, the Viking founder of the ruling dynasty), Moscow is today a world city that holds fast to its deep, rich history, even as it moves forward to the per-

plexing rhythms of the post-Soviet era and the twenty-first century. During the four days of our stay, we will visit Moscow's most important and interesting sites, including Red Square and the Kremlin with its splendid fifteenth- and sixteenth-century cathedrals and superb historical museum; the lovely sixteenth-century New Maiden Convent; the 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 Western European painting and sculpture, not least a spectacular collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces. Besides Moscow's great museums and impressive historical sites, we will include, as evening options, performances at the renowned Bolshoi Theatre, among other ballet, opera, concert, and theater venues that will be available to us according to individual preference.

From Moscow, we will travel by high-speed rail to St. Petersburg, the magnificent Baltic capital founded by Peter the Great in 1703. Unquestionably one of Europe's most beautiful cities, with numerous eighteenth-century Baroque and Neoclassical buildings of great scale and charm, St. Petersburg is also the home of what is universally regarded as one of the world's premier art institutions, the immense Hermitage Museum, with stupendously rich holdings representing virtually every period of European fine and applied art from Egyptian, Greek, and Roman antiquity through the modern era and the great achievements of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism. We will give generous time to the Hermitage, just as we will to the Russian Museum, the country's second largest collection of Russian art. We will also take a day trip south of St. Petersburg to the town of Gatchina and the breathtaking summer palace and park built for a favorite of Catherine the Great and subsequently used by the tsars Nicholas I and Alexander III. In addition to great museums and resonant historical sites, St. Petersburg will offer us, as individual evening options just as in Moscow, a variety of distinguished music and performance venues, most notably the Mariinsky (or Kirov) Ballet and Opera Theatre, founded by Catherine in 1783 and, like its Moscow sibling rival the Bolshoi, one of the world's greatest companies.

The tour is open to all, young or old, student, parent, alumnus, alumna, or friend, who would like to learn more about the East Slavic and Russian world and its remarkable history and dynamic culture. No knowledge of the Russian language is necessary, since the tour will at every stage have the service of licensed English-speaking guides chosen for their linguistic skill and expert knowledge of the local history and lore.

The tour organizer and leader, Judson Rosengrant, has taught Russian language, literature, and culture at Stanford, Reed, USC, and Indiana University, and, as a two-time Fulbright Senior Scholar, translation theory and practice at St. Petersburg State University. He has advanced degrees in Slavic Languages and Literatures and Humanities from Stanford, and has received post-doctoral fellowships from the Mellon Foundation, Harvard University, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is the editor and translator of many works of Russian historiography and literature, including, most recently, a new translation and edition for Penguin Classics of Leo Tolstoy's first novel, *Childhood, Boyhood, Youth*.

**Questions about the tour program and enrollment procedures and deadlines should be directed to the organizer at <[jrosengrant@alumni.stanford.edu](mailto:jrosengrant@alumni.stanford.edu)> or 503.880.9521.**

## ITINERARY AND PROGRAM

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Sat., Apr 26</b>	<b>Portland-Seattle-Frankfurt</b>			
	LV PDX	11:00	LH8852 (UA)	EMB120	0h49
	AR SEA	11:49			
	LV SEA	13:40	LH491	A330-300	10h

<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Sun., Apr 27</b>	<b>Frankfurt-Kiev</b>			
	AR FRA	08:40			
	LV FRA	09:50	LH1140	A321	2h25
	AR KBP	13:15		Total transit time	16h15

Transfer by coach from *Boryspil Airport* to the *President Hotel*, with the tour leader

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Orientation

**Day 3**      **Mon., Apr 28**      **Kiev**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: City tour by coach, with local guide, including Holy Sophia Cathedral (interior) and St. Michael Monastery; Independence Square; St. Vladimir Cathedral (interior), National Opera, and Golden Gate; and the Mariinsky Palace and *Verkhovna rada* (Supreme Council or Parliament).

Kiev, the capital of Ukraine and its largest city with a population of around 2.8 million, dates, as mentioned in the preamble, from at least the sixth century CE. Its recorded history, however, begins with the founding in the late ninth century of the grand principality of Rus by Viking warrior-traders operating along the inland river routes connecting the Baltic and Black seas, and then the acceptance of Christianity in 988 from the Byzantine Empire, of which Rus had become an important military ally and trading partner. Kiev's earliest surviving buildings date from the eleventh century and include the thirteen-dome Cathedral of Holy Sophia (1037), one of the most remarkable buildings in the East Slavic world. Later structures of exceptional beauty are the bell tower added to Holy Sophia in 1752, the exquisite Baroque Church of St. Andrew (built by the Italian Bartolomeo Rastrelli for Peter the Great's daughter, the Empress Elizabeth, and consecrated in 1754), the Ukrainian National Opera, and the St.

Michael Monastery of the Golden Domes, rebuilt in 2001 on the site of an ensemble dating from the early twelfth century that had been demolished by de-mented Stalinist fiat in 1937.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Excursion to Kievo-Pechersk Lavra (Kievan Cave Monastery), including the Ukrainian Museum of Historical Treasures and Museum of Books and Printing, with guide

The astonishing Cave Monastery, founded in 1051 sixty-three years after the conversion of Kievan Rus to Christianity by the Byzantines (and thus contemporaneous with the Great Schism between the Greek and Latin Christian churches in 1053 and the Norman conquest of England in 1066), is the oldest cloister in the East Slavic world. It was from its inception the principal cultural center of Kievan Rus (it is to its monks and their chronicles that we owe the founding legends and historiography of the East Slavic world) and a preserve of the Greek Orthodox faith during the so-called Tatar Yoke, the rule of the Mongol Golden Horde extending from the fall of Rus in the mid-thirteenth century to the rise of Muscovy in late fifteenth. The monastery's accumulated history can be seen both in the ever-expanding Near and Far galleries of the caves themselves and in the superb churches above them, including the Church of the Dormition (or Assumption, 1077; restored in 2000), the Church of the Holy Trinity (1108), and the All-Saints Church (1696-98).

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time

**Day 4      Tues., Apr 29      Kiev**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Excursion by coach, with guide, to the town of Pereyaslav (also known as Pereyaslav-Khmel'nitsky) and the Pereyaslav Historical and Ethnographic Preserve, including the Ascension Monastery and cathedral (1695-1700) and St. Michael church (1646-66), about sixty miles southeast of Kiev.

A center of Kievan Rus from the early tenth century when it was built to protect the principality's southern flank against steppe nomads, Pereyaslav returned to the historical forefront in 1654, when the Cossack hetman Bogdan Khmel'nitsky swore allegiance there to the Russian tsar Alexey I (the father of Peter the Great), thus permitting the incorporation of Ukraine (Little Russia) into the Russian and then Soviet empire until the collapse of the latter in 1991.

Lunch at a local restaurant

Afternoon: Continuation of Pereyaslav excursion with a visit to the open-air Museum of Ukrainian Folk Architecture and the house-museum of Sholem Aleichem.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time

**Day 5      Wed., Apr 30      Kiev**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Excursion to the St. Andrew church and Andriyevsky *uzviz*, including the Bulgakov Museum, Museum of One Street, and the Desyatynna church ruin, with guide

Andriyevsky *uzviz* (Andrew's Ascent) is a narrow, twisting lane dropping to the Dnieper from the promontory where an ancient legend says the Apostle Andrew (Andrei in Russian) placed a cross to signify Kiev's rise, a millennium later, as a powerful Christian center. Today the street is noted for its architectural monuments, boutique museums, and colorful shops and galleries.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Free time or optional excursion with the tour leader by metro to the Babi Yar memorial in the city's northwestern quadrant.

Babi Yar, a ravine formerly on the outskirts of Kiev, is the site of the largest single mass killing of the Holocaust. On September 29-30, 1941, 33,761 people were executed there over open pits, with at least 96,000 more shot in the following months. The overwhelming majority of the victims were Jews. In 1976 a monument was erected by the Soviet government to 'all' the victims. In 1991, a second monument to the 'Jewish' victims was installed.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time or optional performance at the Ukrainian National Opera

The National Opera offers a varied program of opera, ballet, and symphonic music. The April schedule will be published in late winter, at which time any who would like to may purchase tickets with the tour's assistance.

**Day 6      Thurs., May 1      Kiev-Moscow**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Transfer by coach to the *Central Railroad Station*, with the tour leader

LV for Moscow, a distance of about 540 miles, by first-class rail at 09:48 on Train No. 60. Transit time: 11h35

Lunch and dinner on the train at the traveler's discretion

AR *Kiev Station* at 21:23

Transfer by coach to the *Holiday Inn Sokolniki* directly across from Sokolniki Park in eastern Moscow, with the tour leader

**Day 7      Fri., May 2      Moscow**

Buffet breakfast the hotel

Morning: City tour by coach, with local guide, including Tverskaya Street, Pushkin Square, Sparrow Hills and Moscow University, Red Square and St. Basil's Cathedral (interior), and the GUM nineteenth-century mall.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Excursion to the Kremlin, with guide.

The Kremlin (the word means '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 first earth and log form dates from the founding of Moscow in the mid-twelfth century, and visit the splendid Armory Historical Museum and the ensemble of Orthodox churches on the main square, including the cathedrals of the Dormition (Assumption, 1475-79) and Archangel (1505-08), the second the burial place of the tsars until the early eighteenth century, when Peter the Great moved the government to his new capital of St. Petersburg and was himself interred there in its Peter and Paul Cathedral (see Day 12)

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time or optional Bolshoi Theatre or other performance

The Bolshoi program for May is currently unavailable but will be published later in the winter, at which time participants may purchase tickets directly from the theater using the tour's account, or choose instead from a variety of performance alternatives.

**Day 8      Sat., May 3      Moscow**

Buffet breakfast at hotel

Morning: Excursion to the 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 Andrei Rublyov (Rublev), 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 artists. 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 persistent themes and evolving orientations—over the last nine hundred years.

The Church of St. Nicholas on Tolmachev Street is both a recently restored wing of the museum and, with characteristic Russian syncretism, a place of worship. It houses the oldest and most revered icon in Russian Christendom, the Vladimir Theotokos (Mother of God), painted in Constantinople in the early twelfth century—at once an exquisite work of art, a national palladium (The 1552 victory of Ivan the Terrible over the Tatar khanate at Kazan was attributed to its numinous power), and a sacred object expressive of the most profound spiritual values. Its geographical history is also part of its unique meaning. Painted in Constantinople, it was brought to Kiev in 1132, then in 1167 taken to Vladimir when that city emerged as a rival to Kiev, and then in 1395 brought to Moscow, where it was installed in the Kremlin in an earlier version of the Dormition Cathedral—its presence conferring legitimacy on each city as a divinely sanctioned center of political and religious life.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Excursion to the Novodevichy (New-Maiden) Convent, including Smolensk Cathedral and the convent cemetery, with guide

Founded in 1524 as a cloister for noblewomen, the Novodevichy Convent is an ensemble of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century buildings of great beauty, including Smolensk Cathedral, built in 1524-25. The working convent's cemetery is the country's most distinguished and contains the tombs of the writers Gogol, Chekhov, Mayakovsky, and Bulgakov, the film director Sergey Eisenstein, the composers Prokofiev and Shostakovich, the pianist Svyatoslav Richter, the ballerina Galina Ulanova, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, and Russia's first elected president, Boris Yeltsin, among many other prominent nineteenth- and twentieth-century figures.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time or optional Bolshoi or other performance

**Day 9    Sun., May 4    Moscow**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Excursion to the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, with the tour leader

The Pushkin Museum is, after the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia's second home of non-Russian art, with a superb collection representing ancient Egypt, Greek, and Roman antiquity, Byzantium, and Western Europe from the early Renaissance through the modern period, and including, in its intimate adjacent building for nineteenth- and twentieth-century European and American art, major works by Monet, Renoir, Dégas, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Picasso, Matisse, Paul Klee, De Chirico, Rockwell Kent, and Diego Rivera, among others.

Optional visit to the adjacent Cathedral of Christ the Savior (1995-97)

Built as an emphatic national gesture of repudiation of the Soviet era, the Cathedral of Christ the Savior stands on the site of the original nineteenth-century cathedral razed in an equally emphatic gesture by Stalin in 1933 to make way, after much overreaching and indecision, for an enormous municipal swimming pool, completed in 1959. However one may regard the cultural and historical significance or the aesthetic merit of the new cathedral (and given the complexity and importance of the underlying issues, the views of Russians themselves vary widely), the marble and granite structure, built at a cost of at least 360 million dollars in private donations, is impressive indeed, as are the ornate interiors of its upper and lower sanctuaries and their galleries.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Excursion, with guide, to Izmailovsky Park and the open-air market or *vernissage*, mock kremlin, and wooden palace, and the Izmailovo Royal Estate, including the Cathedral of the Intercession and the barbican tower.

Izmailovo is today one of Moscow's largest parks and a popular recreation site and art and souvenir market with whimsical, Disneyesque modern reconstructions of old buildings. Historically, however, the park, or rather the island at its heart, was the boyhood home of Peter the Great during the regency (1682-89) of his half-sister, Sophia. The impressively florid cathedral dates from 1672, with the adjacent barbican (defensive) tower built a few years later.

Dinner at the hotel



Evening: Free time or optional Bolshoi or other performance

**Day 10    Mon., May 5    Moscow**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Excursion to Kolomenskoe, with guide, including the Church of the Kazan Theotokos, Ascension Cathedral (interior), Peter's Cabin, and Treasures of the Kolomenskoe Museum

Once a village on a bluff overlooking the Moscow River southeast of the city but now located well within its limits, Kolomenskoye was in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries a summer retreat of the tsars and of the early boyhood of Peter the Great. Today it is a place of great beauty and serenity notable for its historical museum and period log structures, including Peter's cabin, and its sixteenth- and seventeenth-century stone buildings, especially the extraordinary Romanesque Church of the Ascension (1529), now a museum, and the working Church of the Kazan Theotokos (1644).

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Free time, or optional river cruise with tour leader and a visit to Gorky Park

Gorky Park (the Central Park of Culture and Recreation) on the Moscow River may be familiar to many from Martin Cruz Smith's eponymous 1981 crime novel and the movie made from it, but for Muscovites it is the city's most popular park and a centrally located refuge from urban intensities. Opened in 1928 and until a complete 2011 renovation known mainly for its rickety amusement-park rides, it is today a 300-acre green zone with cafés, beach volleyball courts, yoga and salsa dancing classes, an outdoor movie theater, public art displays an design fairs, and free wi-fi. . .

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time or optional Bolshoi or other performance

**Day 11    Tues., May 6    Moscow-St. Petersburg**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Free time

Transfer by coach to *Leningrad Station*, with tour leader

LV for St. Petersburg, a distance of about 450 miles, at 13:30 on the *Sapsan*

(Peregrine Falcon, No. 158) high-speed train. Transit time: 4h25

Lunch on the train at the traveler's discretion

AR *Moscow Station* 17:55

Transfer by coach to the *Courtyard Marriott Pushkin*, off Griboedov Canal in the city's Kolomna district, with tour leader

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: free time

**Day 12    Wed., May 7    St. Petersburg**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: City tour by coach, including Smolny Cathedral, Peter's Cabin, the Bronze Horseman, St. Isaac's Square, Church of the Savior on the Blood, Kazan Cathedral, Palace Square, Mariinsky Theatre, Nikolsky Cathedral, and Peter and Paul Fortress and Cathedral (interior), with guide.

St. Petersburg was founded in 1703 (it is younger than Boston or New York), and the Peter and Paul Fortress, meant to defend the marshy Neva delta on which the new city would 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, completed in 1733 by the Italian architect Domenico Trezzini in a deliberately Western style meant to symbolize Peter the Great's profound 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 Tsaritsa Alexandra and their children and several devoted retainers, all of whom were shot, incinerated, and buried in an unmarked mineshaft by the Bolsheviks in 1918 but not interred in the cathedral until 1998—an event of great pomp and national symbolism asserting the deeper continuities of Russian history and culture. We will visit the cathedral and, as an option, also the Trubetskoy Bastion, dating from the mid-eighteenth century and used by the tsarist regime to hold important political prisoners, including the assassin of Alexander II, Vera Figner, the novelist Maxim Gorky, and the Bolshevik Leon Trotsky.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Excursion to the Summer Palace, with guide

The so-called Summer Palace in the city's central Summer Garden or walking

park is a rather modest two-story brick and stucco house built by Domenico Trezzini (see above) shortly after the founding of the city for Peter the Great according to his distinctive specifications. Its unpretentious, practical character—it has, for example, a room with a lathe for Peter's own woodworking projects—says much about the tsar's impatience with indulgence and pomp.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time or optional Mariinsky Theatre or other performance

As with the Bolshoi in Moscow, the Mariinsky's May schedule has not yet been published. When it is, those wishing to do so will be able to purchase tickets directly from the theater using the tour's account.

### **Day 13    Thurs., May 8    St. Petersburg**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Excursion to St. Isaac's Cathedral, including Colonnade, 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 (colonnade) around the outside of its high dome, a wonderful view of the city.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Excursion to the Hermitage Museum, with guide

The Hermitage (or *Ermitage*, if you like, since the Russian is a transliteration of the French) is one of the world's greatest museums, with over three million items in its collection. 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 Bartolomeo Rastrelli (see Day 3, above) in 1730-62, and the so-called Small and Large Hermitages constructed by order of Catherine the Great (reigned 1762-96) to house her private art collection, purchased in 1764, the museum's nominal founding year. Containing significant 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 many highlights, however, are the Greek and Roman sculptures, Leonardo's Madonna Litta and Madonna Benois, the two exquisite Raphaels, the twenty-three Rembrandts, the El Grecos, Bruegels, and numerous Van Dykes, and the many major works by Cézanne, Picasso, and Matisse.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time or optional Mariinsky or other performance

**Day 14    Fri., May 9        St. Petersburg**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Excursion to Gatchina, with guide, including the Grand Palace and park

The Grand Palace in the town Gatchina, about 33 miles south-southwest of St. Petersburg, was completed in 1781 for Count Grigory Orlov, a favorite of Catherine the Great who had helped her to the throne by murdering the moronic Tsar Peter III, her husband and the putative father of her son, Paul I. Since tact or delicacy were evidently not an issue in the matter, upon the death of the regicide Orlov, the palace and estate were given by Catherine to Paul. Later the palace became the residence of Nicholas I, and then of his grandson, Alexander III. The building, designed by the Italian Antonio Rinaldi, is one of the most impressive of the several summer palaces, thanks not only to its grand scale and sumptuous interior decoration but also to the large park and lovely lakes extending behind it.

Lunch at a restaurant

Afternoon: Continuation of Gatchina excursion

Brief stop on the return at the unique Chesma Church (1777-80)

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time

**Day 15    Sat., May 10        St. Petersburg**

Buffet breakfast at the hotel

Morning: Excursion to the 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 produced from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries, the evocative nineteenth-century landscapes of Shishkin and Levitan, key works of the late nineteenth-century Realist Itinerant (or Wanderer) school, the influential turn-of-the-century World of Art movement, and the early twentieth-century avant-garde Suprematists and Constructivists. Those looking for serious

art books and exhibition catalogues, quality lacquer boxes, ceramics, and other choice souvenirs will also appreciate the museum's shops and kiosks.

Lunch at the traveler's discretion

Afternoon: Free time

Dinner at the hotel

Evening: Free time or optional Mariinsky or other performance

**Day 16 Sun., May 11 St. Petersburg-Frankfurt-Seattle-Portland**

Box breakfast from the hotel

Transfer by coach to *Pulkovo-2 Airport*, with tour leader

LV LED	06:25	LH1439	A320-200	3h05
AR FRA	07:30			
LV FRA	10:20	LH490	A330-300	10h25
AR SEA	11:45			
LV SEA	14:55	LH8905 (UA)		0h50
AR PDX	15:45		Total transit time	20h20

## SUGGESTED READING

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

Russian culture is very rich, with a history going 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 fine places to begin. Because of their high academic standards, most have substantial bibliographies (especially Billington and Figes), should you wish to extend 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 we would recommend either *The Icon and the Axe*, Billington's comprehensive cultural history, or *Natasha's Dance*, Figes's narrower treatment of the same subject. Both books are available in paperback.

### Social Histories

Gregory L. Freeze, ed., *Russia: A History* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1997). A very useful 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.

Geoffrey Hosking, *Russia and the Russians: A History* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001). An exhaustive, up-to-date synoptic history based on fresh scholarship.

Richard Pipes, *Russia under the Old Regime*, 2nd ed. (New York: Collier Books, 1992). A very interesting, if somewhat tendentious, analytical account and interpretation by a major historian alert to the diverse factors, including climate and geography, that affected the development of Russia's 'character' and culture.

Robert Service, *A History of Twentieth-Century Russia* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998). A careful, up-to-date political and social history.

### Cultural Histories

James A. Billington, *The Icon and the Axe: An Interpretive History of Russian Culture* (New York: Vintage Books, 1970). 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, below, but with a depth and breadth of historical reach that reveal the links between the ancient and the modern as no other work does.

Orlando Figes, *Natasha's Dance: A Cultural History of Russia* (New York: Picador, 2003). An expertly 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.

Nicholas Rzhevsky, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Russian Culture* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998). A reference handbook featuring short articles on a great variety of matters.

## Topical Histories

### *Art and Architecture*

William C. Brumfield, *A History of Russian Architecture*, 2nd ed. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2004). A standard account, with lavish illustrations.

Camilla Grey, *The Great Experiment: Russian Art, 1863-1922* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1962). A very well-informed treatment of the major figures and movements with excellent illustrations.

George Heard Hamilton, *The Art and Architecture of Russia*, 3rd ed. (New York: Penguin, 1983). Although first published in 1954, still the most comprehensive treatment, with discussions of medieval architecture, icon painting from the tenth to the sixteenth centuries, the art of imperial Russia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and early twentieth-century Modernist painting and sculpture.

Tamara Talbot Rice, *A Concise History of Russian Art*, 3rd ed. (New York and Washington: Frederick A. Praeger, 1967). A lucid and indeed concise survey of Russian art from its beginnings in the first millennium through the modern era.

Theofanis George Stavrou, ed., *Art and Culture in Nineteenth-Century Russia* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983). A valuable collection of essays by specialists on a variety of topics relating to literature, fine and applied art, music, and general cultural issues.

### *Literature*

Edward J. Brown, *Russian Literature since the Revolution*, revised and enlarged edition (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1982). 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.

D. S. Mirsky, *A History of Russian Literature*, edited and abridged by Francis J. Whitfield (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1966). A classic discussion by an inexhaustibly well-informed critic of virtually every major figure and work in Russian literature from the beginnings through the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Victor Terras, *A History of Russian Literature* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991). Authoritative synoptic account of the development of Russian literature with short descriptions of authors and works.

### ***Ballet and Music***

Jennifer Homans, *Apollo's Angels. A History of Dance* (New York: Random House, 2010), Part Two, 'Light from the East: Russian Worlds of Art,' especially pages 243-395. A superb discussion of the art of ballet by a historian who was herself a dancer and who is unfailingly responsive to the impact of social and political circumstances on the development of the form.

Francis Maes, *A History of Russian Music: From Kamarinskaya to Babi Yar*, trans. Arnold J. Pomerans and Erika Pomerans (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002). 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.

### ***Some Biographies***

T. J. Binyon, *Pushkin. A Biography* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003). A detailed, readable account of the poet's life based on scrupulous first-hand scholarship.

Elaine Feinstein, *Anna of All the Russias. A Life of Anna Akhmatova* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006). A popular biography, with good command of the scholarship, of one of Russia's greatest twentieth-century figures.

Joseph Frank, *Dostoevsky. A Writer in His Time* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010). A single-volume condensation (from 2,500 pages to 900) of not only the most complete biography of Dostoevsky in any language but also one of the best accounts of the nineteenth-century Russian world from which he emerged.

Robert K. Massie, *Peter the Great: His Life and World* (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1980). A fascinating, highly readable account of Peter I and his creation of modern Russia.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Catherine the Great. Portrait of a Woman* (New York: Random House, 2011). A highly readable and balanced examination of the extraordinary life of an extraordinary woman.

Edvard Radzinsky, *The Rasputin File*, trans. Judson Rosengrant (New York: Anchor Books, 2001). A vivid account of the life of the 'mad monk' Grigory Rasputin and his complex relationship with the last of the Romanovs, Tsar Nicholas II and Tsaritsa Alexandra, and their ill-starred family. Based on a recently recovered archival file of historical documents long thought to have been lost.