

## **Weekend in St.-Petersburg**

**Price: 7 699 SEK - All inclusive.**

DAY 1 Thursday

08.45

Check in at the Arlanda airport

09.15

Flight by Rossija Air (10.35) or SAS (13.10) to St.- Petersburg.

14.05/16.35

Arrival to St.- Petersburg – the city with the 5 mln population, the cultural capital of Russia, the former capital of the Russian Empire.

13.30

We start with the sightseeing tour. After that we check in to the Hotel Dostojevskiy \*\*\*\* which is located in the heart of the city, 5 minutes walk from Nevskiy Prospect.

18.00

Our guide, countess Natalja Tolstaya, a relative to Leo Tolstoy, tells us about the cultural life in St.-Petersburg before the revolution. The countess invites us to a unique place: a flat of a dynasty actor Samoylov, where we are going to have some champagne and listen to the Russian romance music as well as balalajka. Professor Sentjurov, one of the best musicians plays balalajka. We spend the evening in the 19th century interiors. For example, Ivan Ayzovskiy, the famous artist, used to come here quite often.

19.30

Dinner at the hotel

DAY 2 Friday

09.00

Our guide Natalya Tolstaya tells us about the history of St.-Petersburg. We start with the major avenue, Nevsky prospect and The Anichkov bridge. We are going to see the Admiralty, The Senate Square as well as the cabin of Peter the Great. We'll see the legendary cruiser Aurora and visit the Political history museum which is located in the former mansion of the famous ballerina Matilda Kseshinskaya and baron Brandt. The museum exposition presents historical archives about such political leaders as Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Gorbachev. Among the permanent exhibitions there is the one about the revolution of 1917, the beginning of the Russian monarchy fall and the tragedy of the tsar Nicholas II.

After the tour to the museum we go the Mariinsky theatre for a backstage visit.

Lunch at a restaurant for approximately 1 hour. After lunch we go to the world famous art museum: The Hermitage. The Hermitage collection is located in a number of palaces such as, for example Winter Palace, Small Hermitage and Old Hermitage.

Dinner at the hotel.

18.15

We go to Mariinsky theatre to experience a few fantastic hours together.

21.30

Dinner at the "Backstage restaurant", must be booked separately, it's not included into the programme price.

Our hotel is located in the heart of the city. A good alternative to finish the day could be a walk to the Anichkov Bridge and take a boat trip along the rivers and canals. If

you'd like to take a beer at a nice restaurant at a peer, that would be a good choice too.

#### DAY 3 Saturday

09.00

We go to Kronstadt. This naval town is located on the island of Kotlin in the Gulf of Finland of the Baltic sea. It was founded in the early 18th century as the country's head naval base.

There is also another option: The Russian Museum, for those who love the art of Andrey Rublyov, Kazimir Malevich and Vassiliy Kandinskiy.

12.00

Lunch.

13.00

Peterhof (may-september) is located 30 km South-West from the city, at the Gulf of Finland. That miracle appeared when Peter the Great was busy with the construction of the Kronstadt fortress which is located just opposite. The Grand Palace was designed by Rastrelli. We have a stroll in the gardens and visit a small palace Monplesire that faces the Gulf. The fantastic fountains, terraces and gardens are in the magical symmetry with the Grand Peterhof Palace.

During the winter time we visit the museum Dostoyevsky.

17.30

Dinner at the hotel

18.30

You can book theatre tickets at Ryslandsresor. There is a big choice of classical music concerts in St.-Petersburg, as well as opera and ballet productions.

We can also recommend an exclusive restaurant "Palkin" which is located near Dostoevsky Hotel or why not a jazz club?

#### DAY 4 Sunday

09.00

Tsarskoye Selo (Tsar Village) and The Catherine Palace with the Amber room (architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli) located about 25 km south from St.-Petersburg. Nicolas II lived here with his family after the revolution of 1905. The family even spent a few months here under a home arrest in 1917.

13.30

Four courses meal with alcohol at the restaurant "Podvorye"

15.00

Transfer to the airport

18.25/17.15

Flight to Stockholm.

17.55/16.40

Arrival to Stockholm