

Please note that all of the itineraries listed in our web site are actual private tour itineraries we have prepared for clients over the past 12-18 months. By the very nature of what we do, each private tour itinerary is custom, exclusive and unique unto itself. Our over-riding goal is to create lifelong memories that you and your family will forever carry deep within your hearts.

Overview

During the Middle Ages, the residents of the low-lying bog, where presently Amsterdam stands, were forced to work together to simply survive. Overcoming differences in lifestyle and religion in favor of common interest, they built dykes to keep the sea out of the "polder" (the term used for land behind the sea).

The early social cooperation, created the Dutch word "polder model", meaning consensus decision-making. This concept is widely regarded as the basis for Amsterdam's tolerance and open-mindedness. Dutch writer Herman Pleij aptly remarks that "The Netherlands owes its existence to a democracy of dry feet". The city's progressive, forward thinking spirit has created a cosmopolitan air that makes this small city (population only 767,000) the envy of its European neighbors.

TEMPERATURE RANGE

Highs: Low 70's

Lows: Low 30's

AREA

41,864 SQ KM

16,164 SQ MILES

POPULATION

16.7 million

LANGUAGE

Dutch

CAPITAL

Amsterdam

CURRENCY

Euro

Day 1

Fly to St. Petersburg

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assist with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

Day 2

Arrive St. Petersburg

Upon arrival in St. Petersburg, you will be privately transferred to the Belmond Grand Hotel Europe.

Belmond Grand Hotel Europe

Adjacent to Art Square, the Belmond Grand Hotel Europe is considered to be one of the most glamorous hotels in Europe. First opened 140 years ago, the Belmond Grand has a distinguished guest list including the Romanovs, Dostoevsky, Stravinsky, Carlo Rossi, and Pavarotti, to name a few. Originally named Hotel de

l'Europe, this imperial-looking building has served as a hospital, orphanage, and government offices, from the First World War to post-revolutionary times. Carefully and extensively restored from 1989 to 1991, the Belmond Grand Hotel includes 266 elegant and richly-styled rooms. Amenities include five different restaurants and bars, a shopping arcade, a fully-equipped gym, and spa facilities.

Meals: --

Accommodations: *The Belmond Grand Hotel Europe*

Day 3

St. Petersburg Private Touring

A history of tsars brings forth opulent architecture to be seen in St. Petersburg. Your morning begins by visiting palatial Orthodox churches, the first being the Church of the Resurrection of Christ, deemed as the most ornate church in Russia. You may wish to continue on to St. Isaac's Cathedral, which will surely not disappoint you. Following lunch, you will take a private canal boat tour of Peter the Great and finish the day at the Fortress Cathedral.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: *The Belmond Grand Hotel Europe*

Day 4

St. Petersburg & Pushkin Private Touring

One of the grandest museums in the world, you will be visiting Winter Palace. Once home to tsars from 1760s onward, the palace now hosts 2.7 million exhibits with works of artists like Da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo, and Monet. In the afternoon, you will travel to Tsarskoe, also known as Pushkin, to visit Catherine's Palace – a site that competes with Versailles.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: *The Belmond Grand Hotel Europe*

Day 5

Peterhof & Faberge Museum

You will be taken the Peterhof Grand Palace, constructed by over 5,000 labourers employed by Peter the Great after his visit to Versailles in 1717. To avoid the crowds, the Grand Palace is opened for you before official opening hours. Afterwards you will return to St. Petersburg for lunch and continue to the Faberge Museum, where you may see the famed Imperial Easter Eggs.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: *The Belmond Grand Hotel Europe*

Day 6

St. Petersburg/Moscow

Upon arrival in Moscow, you will be privately transferred to the Royal Aurora Hotel.

Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel

Located on Ulitsa Petrovka, the Marriott Royal Aurora offers a prime location steps away from Moscow's Red Square, the Kremlin, and the Bolshoi Theater. The 5-Star Marriott Royal Aurora offers 230 rooms, including 38 suites, which seamlessly blends traditional Russian aesthetics with modern conveniences. Amenities include a fitness center, indoor pool, the Aurora Restaurant, Polo Club, Lobby Bar, and Vicolo Terrace.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel

Day 7

Moscow Private Touring

The Red Square is the site of deep Russian history, serving as a place for public executions as well as playing host to military parades. Your private guide will take you through prominent sites and monuments that describe Russia's tumultuous and impressive history.

Art Hotel Nikolaevsky Posad

Though somewhat cheesy and touristy, we feel a single night stay at the Art Hotel will be a fun experience, allowing for you to gain a wider view of Russia. All 139 rooms are richly decorated in traditional Russian style and spread among eight detached buildings surrounding the main hotel, reminiscent of a merchant's manor. The Theatrical Restaurant offers up European dishes, whereas the Opokhmelochnaya and Kupechesky Restaurants allow for you to try traditional Russian meals.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Nikolaevsky Posad

Day 8

Suzdal Private Touring

With the Trans-Siberian Railway bypassing this town, Suzdal was left behind in the 19th century. A time capsule sitting amidst rolling meadows, some renowned sights include the Museum of Wooden Architecture & Peasant Life, Golden Gate, and the Church of Transfiguration. One of the highlights includes being hosted by a local family who serve you a meal and give you a tour of their rural life.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel

Day 9

Kremlin Territory

For centuries, the Kremlin has been witness to many well-known and tragic events in Russia's past, making it a treasure trove of Russian history. Your private guide will take you through the epicenter where all the great historical and political events have occurred since the 13th century. Following your Kremlin tour, you will take to Moscow's Cold War Museum, Bunker-42.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel

Day 10

Moscow Private Touring

Purposely built beneath a stadium, you will explore the Stalin's Bunk, connected by underground tunnel to the Kremlin and serving as Stalin's official residence. Additional stopovers include Izmailovky Market, VDNKH Park featuring over 250 Soviet-era palaces, and the Moscow Metro. We may also arrange a meeting with Pavel Palazchenko, a high-level Soviet interpreter for Mikhail Gorbachev and foreign ministers.

Day 11

Fly Moscow/Home

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: --