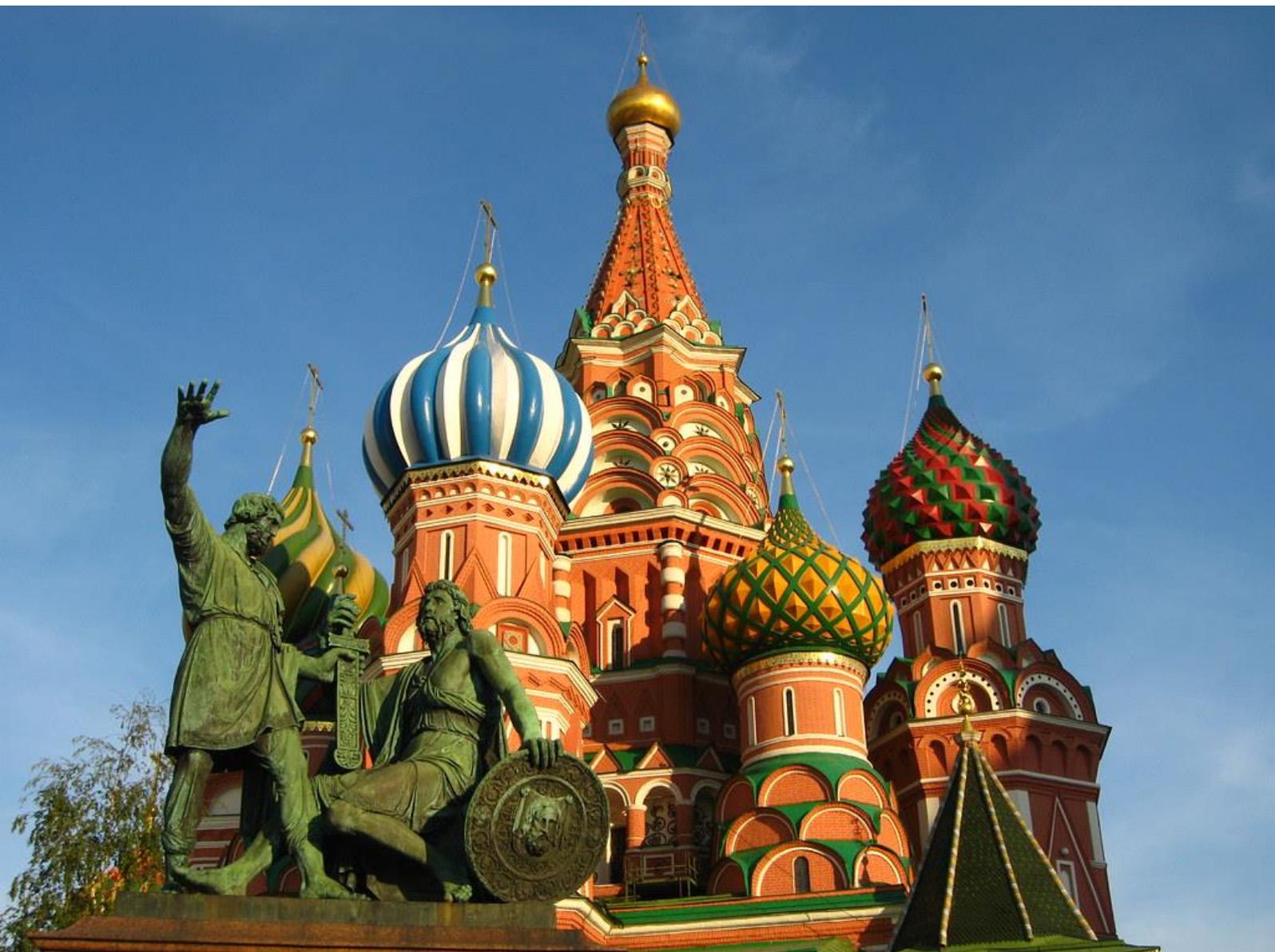




A TOUR OF
MOSCOW & ST PETERSBURG
WITH
ALEXANDRA TOLSTOY

20TH – 26TH NOVEMBER 2020



ALEXANDRA TOLSTOY

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AMPERSAND
TAILOR-MADE TRAVEL

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Introduction from Alexandra Tolstoy



As a relative of Leo Tolstoy and having lived in Moscow on and off for over twenty-five years, I love any excuse to visit Russia, and this is one of my favourite trips. Moscow, perhaps contrary to expectations, is nowadays one of the world's most glamorous and vibrant cities, boasting a young, energetic population. As well as being a great cultural and historical centre, the city has a very sophisticated restaurant scene, some of which will be explored on the trip from the comfort of the historic National Hotel, situated opposite Red Square. St Petersburg presents an intriguing contrast to Moscow, with its more uniform architectural style and magical atmosphere, focussed on the arts. Based in the Astoria Hotel, built for the tercentenary celebrations of the Romanov dynasty, we visit some of the three million works of art in the Hermitage Museum, as well as the romantic summer palaces outside the city, and of course attend a performance at the Mariinsky Theatre.

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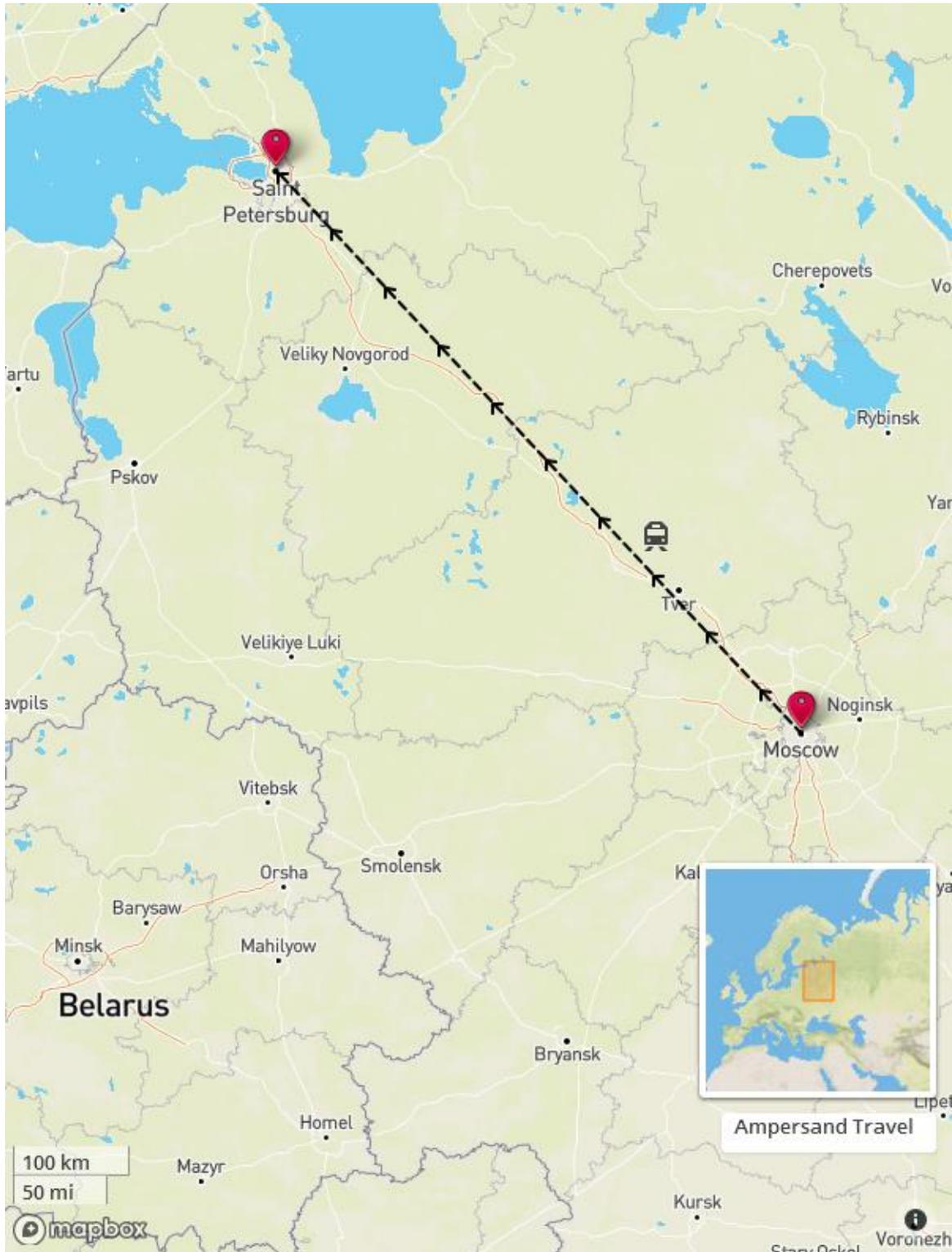
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MAP SHOWING YOUR ROUTE



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2020	ITINERARY	LOCATION, HOTEL & MEALS
Friday 20 th November	<p>AM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended flight (<i>not included</i>) London Heathrow – Moscow SVO Aeroflot SU2581 10:40/17:40 <p>PM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel. This evening’s supper is at the Dr Zhivago restaurant in the opulent National Hotel, followed by a warming drink on the roof terrace of the Ritz Carlton, with magnificent views of Red Square and the Kremlin. 	<p>Moscow</p> <p>National Hotel</p> <p>Classic Room</p> <p><i>Dinner</i></p>
Saturday 21 st November	<p>AM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 09:30 – Begin a tour of Moscow, taking in the fascinating Moscow university, Novodevichy Cemetery, and other sights. Travel on the elegant Metro system. Have a walking tour of Red Square, including the Cathedral of St Basil and GUM, the glamorous 19th century shopping arcade that lines one side of the square. <p>PM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13:00 – Enjoy a leisurely lunch at Mishka Café, looking out on to Red Square. 14:45 - Visit the Christ the Saviour Cathedral - the enormous cathedral rebuilt between 1995-2000 after the original 19th century cathedral was destroyed by Stalin. 15:30 - Visit the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts to view the Impressionist Collection. Return to your hotel for around 17:30. 	<p>“</p> <p><i>Breakfast, Lunch</i></p>
Sunday 22 nd November	<p>AM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 09:30 - Drive to the Tretyakov Gallery. During the tour your guide will pick out a few of the most significant paintings to give an overview of Russian art. <p>PM:</p>	<p>“</p> <p><i>Breakfast, Lunch</i></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:30 – Lunch will be held at the atmospheric Tretyakov Brothers restaurant. • 14:30 – Visit Leo Tolstoy’s Moscow house. • Return to your hotel for around 17:30. 	
Monday 23 rd November	<p>AM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 09:30 – Having checked out of the hotel, board minibus with luggage. • 10:00 – Visit the Kremlin Territory offering you a fascinating insight into Russian history. • 12:00 – See the Diamond Fund, a spectacular collection of jewellery and gems. <p>PM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13:00 - Lunch will be at Café Pushkin, created to replicate a nineteenth century aristocratic mansion. • 14:00 – Travel to the railway station to board the 15:30 Express Sapsan train to St Petersburg. • 19:16 – Arrive in St Petersburg. You’ll be met on arrival and driven to your hotel. 	<p>St Petersburg</p> <p>Hotel Astoria</p> <p>Classic Room</p> <p><i>Breakfast, Lunch</i></p>
Tuesday 24 th November	<p>AM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00 – Walk to the former Winter Palace, now the Hermitage Museum, and home to over three million works of art. <p>PM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13:00 – Have a delicious lunch at Gogol, famous for pre-revolutionary home dining in a charming setting. • 14:15 – Embark on a city tour, including the Peter and Paul Fortress. • Return to your hotel for around 17:00. • 19:00 – Attend a lecture in the hotel, given by Professor Alexei Leporc, followed by drinks. 	“
Wednesday 25 th November	<p>AM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 09:00 – Travel by road to Pavlovsk. • Visit the palace of Pavlovsk and then take a walk in the English Park and view the Rose Pavilion. <p>PM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13:00 – Enjoy lunch at Admiralty restaurant. Following this, visit Catherine’s Palace. • Return to your hotel around 17:30. 	“

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option to attend a ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre	
Thursday 26 th November	<p>AM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10:00 – Check out of the hotel.• 10:30 – Visit the Fabergé Museum.• 11:30 – Transfer to the airport for your flight home. <p>Recommended flight (<i>not included</i>) St Petersburg – London Gatwick Aeroflot SU6619 14:15/14:45</p>	Home <i>Breakfast, packed lunch</i>

See next page for Inclusions and Exclusions

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INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation as per itinerary based on two sharing
- Surface transportation as per itinerary
- Airport transfers in Moscow and St Petersburg included if selecting the recommended flights
- Excursions, sightseeing & entrance fees as per itinerary
- All presently applicable taxes including service tax
- Meals as specified as included in the itinerary
- Transfers by Mercedes minibus
- Train from Moscow to St Petersburg

EXCLUSIONS:

- International flights & visas
- All expenses of a personal nature and tips at hotels, restaurants, or for drivers and guides.
- Any meals and suggested drinks as not specified as included
- Any increases in tax (airline, fuel, government etc)
- Alcohol with meals (except at Café Pushkin where 1 glass of wine is included)
- Evening meals except the first night (we estimate between £70-100 per meal per head including a glass of wine)
- Ballet performance

COSTINGS:

<i>Price based on minimum 8 persons travelling</i>	PER PERSON
Price based on one adult travelling for 6 nights	€4,780
Single person supplement	€650

Amount is in euro, but payable in pound sterling, using the bank exchange rate of the day. A non-refundable 25% deposit is required to reserve your place on this trip. The balance is due 10 weeks prior to departure.

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WHY BOOK WITH AMPERSAND?

At Ampersand, we believe that “luxury is in the experience”. We love travelling in style but are not afraid to step off the usual circuit in order to experience something more rewarding. We specialise in exclusive tailor-made holidays that are perfect for honeymoons, cultural tours, family trips, wildlife adventures, sabbaticals and multi-generational holidays.

Over the last 10 years we have established ourselves as a leader in luxury holidays to the Indian subcontinent, South East Asia and the Far East. In keeping with our desire to share the places we know and love best, we are thrilled to have recently added Southern Africa to our portfolio of destinations.

Our clients are mostly private individuals who recognise that time is their most precious asset and want to entrust it to experts with a well proven track record. This smoothes out the planning process and ensures that they have the most rewarding and memorable experience possible. We also look after some of the world’s most acclaimed museums and organisations who rely on us to arrange once-in-a-lifetime group tours for their most important patrons.

Local knowledge & contacts: We are a team of knowledgeable and well-connected individuals who have lived and /or travelled extensively in the destinations we offer.

First-hand experience: We personally visit all the hotels and locations we recommend and can provide you with first-hand information and opinions on them.

Easy to reach: We personally answer all phone calls (during office working hours). You will never be answered by a machine or be frustrated by multiple options. All our clients also receive our emergency phone number which they are welcome to use outside working hours.

Financial protection: Ampersand Travel is ATOL bonded meaning that the money spent on your holiday is protected.

Personal service: You will be looked after by one consultant from your initial enquiry until your safe return home from holiday.

Reliability: 80% of our business is from repeat clients and friends they have recommended to us.

Small by choice: We have deliberately chosen to remain small so that we can look after our clients to the best of our ability and enjoy the process as we go along.

Totally independent: We only recommend places we love. Unless we would be happy to stay there we will not recommend it – it’s as simple as that.

Owner run: Ampersand is owner run and, interestingly, most of our carefully selected ground handlers are too. We feel that this creates a far more passionate and personal service and a greater sense of accountability, which are key to providing the best possible service.

We love travel: This will become obvious as soon as you contact us!

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