Land Program Rate: $4,395  
(per person based on double occupancy)  
Single Supplement: $695

Included: All accommodation, hotel taxes  
• Meals per itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)  
• Arrival/departure airport transfers for those who arrive/depart on the scheduled start/return dates  
• All ground transportation per itinerary by private vehicles and taxis  
• Special cultural events and extensive sightseeing, including entrance fees  
• English-speaking guide/Tour Manager throughout the itinerary  
• Baggage handling at the hotel gratuities to local guides, drivers, Tour Manager and restaurant staff during included meals  
• Comprehensive pre-departure packet  

Not Included: International airfare to/from the USA (our tour operator MIR Corporation can assist with reservations)  
• Travel insurance  
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Program Highlights
• Begin each day with a private lecture focused on a particular aspect of Russian life, and explore the city in the context of these themes.
• Spend an evening at a private dacha in the company of local hosts, enjoying traditional Russian cuisine, warm hospitality, and friendly conversation.
• Stand beside the graves of the Russian czars in the historic Peter and Paul Fortress.
• Attend a specially arranged meeting with a survivor of the 1941-44 Siege of Leningrad, when German forces surrounded and blockaded the city.
• Take a memorable backstage tour and attend a ballet performance at a renowned theater in St. Petersburg, where some of the world's finest dancers, composers, and musicians have appeared throughout the years.
• Enjoy a tour of Catherine's Palace, including the exquisite Amber Room.

Study Leader Richard Bidlack
Richard Bidlack is the Martin and Brooke Stein Professor of History at Washington & Lee. He teaches a wide variety of courses on Russian, European, and Eurasian history. He helped establish the university's Russian Area Studies Program in 1992 and served as its director from 1994 to 2002. Richard has visited Leningrad/St. Petersburg over a dozen times and has also led student programs to Russia. In 2012, co-authored with a Russian historian The Leningrad Blockade, 1941-1944: A New Documentary History from the Soviet Archives. Richard is currently working with an international team of scholars, who are analyzing a large collection of postcards published in Leningrad during the blockade.

Day by Day Itinerary

August 2
Depart USA Today. (In-flight)

August 3
Arrive St. Petersburg, Russia
Arriving in St. Petersburg, transfer to the centrally located hotel. This evening, meet your fellow travelers at the welcome dinner: Helvetia Hotel (D)

August 4
St. Petersburg
Attend a lecture on the subject of the city's architectural preservation and restoration. Over the course of the day, visit some of the city's great architectural wonders: majestic St. Isaac's Cathedral, the Church on Spilled Blood with its dazzling blue, green, and gold cupolas, and take a guided tour of the Russian Museum, the most comprehensive and moving collection of Russian art in the world. The museum's main structure, the magnificent Mikhailovsky Palace, was extensively renovated in 1998 in honor of its one-hundredth anniversary. In the evening, board a boat for a private cruise of St. Petersburg's canals, admiring magnificent pre-revolutionary palaces along the embankments. Helvetia Hotel (B, L)

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August 6
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**August 2**

- **Depart USA**
  - Depart USA today. (In flight)

**August 3**

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  - Arriving in St. Petersburg, transfer to the centrally located hotel. This evening, meet your fellow travelers at the welcome dinner: Helvetia Hotel (D)

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**August 11**

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(B, in flight)
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Refund Policy: If you must cancel your trip, please write to MIR Corporation Trust, 204 W Washington Street, Lexington, VA 24450. If MIR Corporation Trust has received your completed registration form by May 8, 2020, you will be refunded the full deposit, less a service charge of $100 per person. If MIR Corporation Trust receives your completed registration form after May 8, 2020, you will be refunded only 50% of the air and land program costs. For these trips, you should maintain a travel insurance policy to cover any unforeseen circumstances that may occur while you are on your trip.
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