



Gateway Travel

Russia

Eastern Europe

China

Central Asia

Norfolk Island

Worldwide

School Group Tour

Dates: June / July 2010

Escorted European Tour Quotation

Tour 2

Group Size: 28 people

Group name: To be advised

Group leader: To be advised



• we create the journey
you make the *memories*

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Itinerary:

Poland: 4 days / 3 nights

Day 1: Arrival in Berlin. Transfer from Berlin through Jawor to Wrocław. Wrocław and surroundings

Which town has 127 bridges, 14 islands, and has had 50 variants of its name over a one thousand year history? Wrotizla, Vretslav, Presslaw, Breslau are just some of labels attached to Wrocław, The Island City, which is the capital of Lower Silesia, in the south-west corner of Poland. The city has been a cross-roads of Polish, Czech, Austrian, German, Jewish and Ukrainian culture and modern visitors will find a spice in the life here, which will make them want to come back.

Wrocław City Tour (3 hours)

Visit to Ostrów Tumski – the oldest part of Wrocław where the episcopate was established in year 1000. See its numerous Gothic churches, the most precious of which, St John the Baptist Cathedral, founded in 1244, has remnants of the first, Romanesque church. Walk through the Old Town with its beautiful Town Hall erected in 1241, now a museum, and many picturesque Renaissance and Baroque tenement houses. Stop at Wrocław University with its ornate Baroque Aula Leopoldina constructed in the 18th century, bedecked with paintings, sculpture, and gold-plated stuccoes. Visit to “People’s Hall”, a modernist concert hall by Max Weber (1913), with a capacity of 6000 seats.

The Churches of Peace in Jawor and Świdnica, localised in Poland, Lower Silesian Voivodeship, are the largest timber-framed religious buildings in Europe.

Three Evangelical churches were built in Lower Silesia in 17th century, at a time of religious strife following the Peace of Westphalia, and therefore were named the Churches of Peace. The church in Głogów burned in 1758, the other two in Jawor and Świdnica were restored by a Polish-German cooperation.

Overnight in Wrocław.

Day 2: Wrocław – Auschwitz - Cracow

Auschwitz–Birkenau former Nazi concentration camp

A grim reminder of Nazi terror and the holocaust. Auschwitz, built on the outskirts of the Polish town Oświęcim – now the Museum of Martyrdom – consists of brick barracks with shocking exhibits of tons of hair, shoes, glasses and other belongings wrested from the victims, while nearby Birkenau has hectares of wooden barracks and gas chambers.

A documentary film (in English, German, French, Italian, Russian and Hebrew) made shortly after liberation of the camp is viewable on request.



Wawel Hill (2.5 hours)

Wawel is the pride of Kraków and the heart of the nation as it is the final resting place of monarchs and wordsmiths. The Gothic Royal Castle dates back to the 10th century and was remodeled in Renaissance style in the 16th century. Its magnificent interiors contain numerous paintings as well as the Wawel Tapestries Collection, commissioned in Flanders. The Gothic Royal Cathedral with its numerous crypts has elements of the original 11th century Romanesque cathedral. At the foot of the hill by the river is the cave of dragon which, according to legend, used to terrify Cracovians, until it was outwitted by a young shoemaker.

Overnight in Cracow.

Day 3 Cracow-Wieliczka-Warsaw

Wieliczka Salt Mine (2.5 hours)

A tour of the mine includes beautiful chapels sculpted in salt (Saint Kinga's chapel is the most beautiful one), crystal-like grottoes and underground ponds. All this at average depth of 130 m below the ground.

Overnight in Warsaw.

Day 4 Warsaw-Vilnius

The Royal Castle (2 hours)

The Royal Castle is a symbol of Polish statehood, where many important historic events took place, including the passing of the first Polish Constitution in 1791. The castle dates back to the 13th century, though it owes its current shape to the early Baroque period. A tour of the castle presents its magnificent interiors: the Court Rooms, the Parliamentary Rooms and the Royal Apartments. Numerous paintings displayed there include portraits of Polish monarchs and the works of Bernardo Bellotto Canaletto.

Overnight in Vilnius.

Baltic States: 7 days / 6 nights: Vilnius – Riga – Vilnius

Day 5: Vilnius and Trakai.

Morning city tour in Vilnius. Historical Old Town of Vilnius: Vilnius Cathedral and its square, the University campus, Pilies street with the 16th –18th historical and architectural monuments, Gothic corner of Vilnius with St Anne's and Bernardine churches, the former Town Hall square, the Dawn Gate with a miraculous icon of Virgin Mary, the 17th century Baroque church of St Peter and Paul.

Afternoon tour to Trakai. Located 28 km from Vilnius, the ancient capital of Lithuania is now famous for its 15th century insular castle housing an exhibition on prehistoric findings and the 17th-18th century applied art, the way of life of the Lithuanian Grand Dukes, and the Karaites, a Judaistic sect brought by grand Duke Vytautas from the Crimea.

Overnight in Vilnius.



Day 6: Vilnius – Hill of crosses - Rundale Palace - Riga

Departure to Riga with en route stops at the *Hill of Crosses*, a unique place of national pilgrimage, and the *Rundale Palace*, the most beautiful baroque palace in Latvia located near the town of Bauska (66 km south of Riga). The palace built in the 18th century is an outstanding example of the early work of Italian - Russian architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli who also designed the famous Winter Palace in St.Petersburg. Late afternoon arrival in Riga, the capital of Latvia. Hotel accommodation. Overnight in Riga.

Day 7: Riga

Morning city tour in Riga. The tour encompasses the most significant sights of Riga - the Dome Cathedral, the Church of St. Peter, the old Guild Houses, the Swedish Gate, the architectural ensemble Three Brothers, St. Jacob's Church, the Parliament House, Old Riga Castle, and view the many wonderfully restored buildings, now housing cosy restaurants, cafes, bars and souvenir shops. The tour will then continue by car along the central boulevards of Riga, passing by City Canal parks, the Bastion Hill, the Powder Tower, the Latvian National Theatre, the Fine Arts Museum, the Art Nouveau buildings of the beginning of the century, the Freedom Monument, University of Latvia, the Opera House, and the Daugava River with its bridges.

Afternoon free.

Overnight in Riga.

Day 8: Riga – Gauja National park - Tallinn

Drive alongside the Riga Bay to Tallinn. En route stop in Gauja National park near Sigulda, located in the picturesque Gauja valley dotted with caves and castles. Tour enables one to experience a genuine whiff of the Middle Ages, a time of romantic legends, castles and heroic figures by visiting the ruins of the 13th century Turaida Castle, and a local History Museum, viewing "the garden of Gods" from the 30 m high fortification tower, walking to the sandstone grottoes on the ancient river bank.

Late afternoon arrival to Estonia's capital. Hotel accommodation.

Overnight in Tallinn.



Day 9: Tallinn

Morning city tour in Historical Old Town of Tallinn: Catherine's Valley Park and Palace (no visit inside), the Song Festival Amphitheatre, the venue of 120-years old song festival tradition. You'll see Tallinn's number one attraction: Toompea Hill and the Parliament building, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral (visit inside), Tall Hermann, Kiek in de Kok and Dome Cathedral (visit inside). The tour ends in Town Hall Square with a view of the Town Hall, a Gothic masterpiece of the 13th – 14th centuries.

Afternoon tour to open-air museum Rocca al Mare. Located in the picturesque 84 - hectare forest park, the museum gathers a fine collection of 17th - 19th century rural architecture from all over the Estonia. Farmhouses, country pubs, windmills, and chapels will be on display and furnished according to period styles.

Overnight in Tallinn.

Day 10: Tallinn – St.Petersburg.

Transfer to St.Petersburg.

Overnight in St.Petersburg

St. Petersburg : 4 days / 3 nights

Day 11: St.Petersburg: Pushkin and Peterhof

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning excursion to Pushkin

This city, which is located 30 km to the south of St. Petersburg, it was named after the great poet Pushkin. There is located one of the most beautiful residences of Russian tsars, the Catherine Palace, named after Peter the Great's wife, Catherine I. It was designed by famous Italian architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli, the designer of the most important monuments and palaces of the city. The palace was constructed in XVII century over the ruins of five tsars. The favorite place of Catherine II the Great, her incomparable heritage is crowned with the Amber Room that is fully covered with Baltic amber. It was barred to the public for almost 100 years; it was fully restored in 2003 on the 300 year anniversary of the city. The large hall and the hall of painting are also notable. The beautiful architecture of the palace finds its reflection in the neighboring park, where you can walk along the birches and firs, lakes and ponds, streams, bridges, sculptures, pavilions. The beauty of this place was described by many poets and artists.

Afternoon excursion to Peterhof.



Peterhof (Petrodvorets or Russian Versailles) was the main summer residence of Russian tsars. Located on the right coasts of Gulf of Finland, near the sea and 30 km of St. Petersburg, it is one of the main monuments of the former tsar's capital. Petrodvorets is a big complex that includes the Palace and Park, which we will visit, besides several pavilions of small palaces, scattered over the beautiful garden. They are of special interest with their 150 fountains and 3 cascades, and also bright play of water, decorated with gilded statues of peerless beauty.

Back to the hotel. Overnight in St.Petersburg.

Day 12: St.Petersburg

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion: City Tour with visiting Peter and Paul Fortress

Panoramic city tour: this tour is ideal to get in touch with the city, its historical centre and major monuments. We will see the Nevsky Prospect with its prestigious buildings: The Anichkov Palace, Belozersky's Palace, the Kazan Cathedral. We will cross the Fontanka, the river that crosses the city center, and also the Moyka River and the Griboyedov Canal, the Hermitage, Peter and Paul's Fortress.

On the other side of the Neva are the spit of the Vasilievsky Island, the Menshikov Palace, and the State University on the Vasilievsky Island. We will see the statue before the building of the Senate and St. Isaac's Cathedral with its big columns, made from Finnish red granite. Then there are the buildings of the Philharmony and the Mariinsky Theatre on the Theatre Square.

Afternoon free time.

Overnight in St.Petersburg.

Day 13: St.Petersburg: Hermitage. Train to Moscow

Breakfast at the hotel

Check out from the hotel

10:00 Excursion to the Hermitage museum

The State Hermitage Museum occupies five magnificent buildings along the Neva River Embankment in the very center of Saint Petersburg. They are the Winter Palace, the Small Hermitage, the Large Hermitage, the New Hermitage, and the Hermitage Theater. The part of the museum's exposition is displayed in the Palace of Alexander Menshikov and in the General Staff Building in the Palace Square. The Winter Palace, the official residence of Russian emperors, designed by architect B. Rastrelli in 1754-1762, occupies the leading place in the whole ensemble.

The State Hermitage features one of the largest art collections in the world. It numbers about 3 million items, including masterpieces by outstanding artists. The Hermitage collection includes culture objects embracing the period from the Stone Age to modern times.



The architect of the Winter Palace, Bartolomeo Rastrelli, confirmed that it was created "for Russian glory only". The palace became the symbol of the brilliant 18th century. It combines the power and energy of the baroque style with solemn grandeur of classic interiors, reminding of Russia's greatness.

Afternoon free time.

22:00 Train to Moscow.

Moscow: 4 days / 3 nights

Day 14: Moscow

Breakfast (optional)

Excursion: City Tour with visiting Kremlin

This is an ideal variant to get in touch with the city, its historical centre and major monuments. We will walk along the broad streets such as famous Tverskaya street, we will get to the Red Square, which has been designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and is named for its surrounding buildings made from red bricks: the History Museum, the Kremlin walls, and St. Basil's Cathedral with its famous onion domes, which was built on the order of Ivan the Terrible. Red Square is also home to the Lenin Mausoleum, and the Red Army marches there on various holidays throughout the year. Close by are the Bolshoi Theatre, the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, the noble edifice of Lubyanka, KGB headquarters, and the small churches of Kitai-gorod. We will also explore streets on the bank of the Moscow River, as well as see the Parliament, Duma and White House, Olympic stadium, and Sparrow Hills, home to the Stalin-era skyscraper of Moscow State University is. Then we will see Arbat Street, the favorite meeting place of Muscovites and the thoroughfare which is the heart of the ancient city centre.

Afternoon free time.

Overnight in Moscow.

Day 15: Moscow

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion: Kolomenskoe, and on the way back visiting Novodevichy Monastery.

Old village of Kolomenskoye situated in the southern part of Moscow is a unique place where the relics of Russian history were created and kept for centuries. Close to Kolomenskoye there is the oldest on the territory of Moscow settlement — known as Dyakovo Gorodishche — that is 2,5 thousand years old.

This is one of the most beautiful convents in Moscow and its was founded in the early 16th century. Its main cathedral was consecrated in honour of the Smolenskaya Icon of the Mother of God Hodigitria. According to legend, the icon was painted by St. Luke himself, and it is closely linked with the convent's foundation.

Overnight in Moscow.



Day 16, Moscow: Sergiev Posad

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion to Sergiev Posad

Located 70 km to the northeast of Moscow and on the route of the Golden Ring of Russia, Sergiev Posad (formerly known as Zagorsk) is one of the most important centres of the Orthodox religion. There you will see the characteristic elements of military architecture of the XV-XVIII centuries, the period of its development.

Afternoon excursion: Arbat walking tour with a guide

Arbat is one of the oldest areas in Moscow and it's the name of the most touristic street in the city. There are always many people wandering around, there are many cafes, restaurants, antiques and souvenir shops.

Overnight in Moscow.

Day 17, Moscow

Breakfast at the hotel

Check out from the hotel

Transfer to the airport with a guide.

Prices include:

- 1 x night /Bed & Breakfast in 3* Hotel in Wroclaw
- 1 x night /Bed & Breakfast in 3* Hotel in Cracow
- 1 x night /Bed & Breakfast in 3* Hotel in Warsaw
- 2 x nights /Bed & Breakfast in 3* Hotel in Vilnius
- 2 x nights /Bed & Breakfast in 3* Hotel in Riga
- 2 x nights /Bed & Breakfast in 3* Hotel in Tallinn
- 3 x nights /Bed & Breakfast in 3* Hotel in St.Petersburg
- 3 x nights /Bed & Breakfast in 3* Hotel in Moscow
- 1 x night in train St.Petersburg-Moscow
- Train St.Petersburg-Moscow in a cabin for 4 people
- Half board
- English speaking escort guide for all trip and local/shoulder guides
- Coach for the entire route
- Entrance fees in Poland: Jawor – church of Peace; Royal castle (Wawel) with cathedral; Auschwitz; Salt Mines in Wieliczka; Royal castle in Warsaw
- Entrance fees in Baltic States: Vilnius University; Trakai castle in Vilnius; Dome Cathedral and St.Peter's Church with tower in Riga; Burg Turaida in Sigulda (Gauja National Park) and Rundale Palace; Dome church in Tallinn and Rocca al Mare open air museum.
- Entrance fees in St.Petersburg: Catherine Palace; Peterhof; Peter and Paul's Fortress; Hermitage museum.
- Moscow: Kremlin; Novodevichy Monastery.
- 2 people free of charge in twin room



Prices exclude:

- International transportation to and from Russia
- Travel insurance
- Tips and gratuities (Approximately 1 Euro per person per day to the Tour Director and 0.70 Euro per person per day to the driver)
- Lunches
- Laundry
- Items of a personal nature
- Visas

Prices: (per person twin share)

2 Adults are included Free of charge in a twin room
\$4765 per person / 28 people

Single supplements:

Single supplement: \$1245 per single

Note:

All prices are subject to change at this stage. Prices are based on a minimum and maximum group size. Additional group conditions will be advised upon confirmation by our supplier. Below is a guide of our Gateway Travel conditions of payment and cancellations, however group policies are a little different and will be subject to the advice of our suppliers.

CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT

On request for booking: 10% non-refundable deposit is required
On confirmation: Balance 90% of payment is required

CANCELLATION FEES

Prior to 95 days plus from start date:	10% (Non-refundable deposit)
94 -65 days:	25% of price
64 - 35 days:	50% of price
34 – 12 days:	75% of price
11 days & no-show:	100% of price (no refund)

Gateway Travel looks forward to planning the 2010 group for you! Please contact us with all queries and amendments / additions to the group quotation above.

Date of issue: 14 April 2009.