Russia in Revolution
St. Petersburg to Moscow

Jay Winter
Charles J. Stille Professor of History Emeritus

July 21-30, 2018
Dear Yale Traveler

Spend nine days in St. Petersburg and Moscow immersing yourself in one of the cataclysmic events of the 20th century, the Russian Revolution. Examine the environment and explore the context of those Ten Days That Shook the World, while also taking in the superlative cultural highlights of the largest nation on earth.

Discover firsthand some of the settings for the 1917 October Revolution, from St. Petersburg’s Finland Station, where Lenin made his triumphal return, to the Smolny Institute rooms from which he commanded the take-over of the Winter Palace and all communication hubs. Board the cruiser Aurora, which fired the shot (a blank) that signaled the Bolsheviks to charge the Winter Palace. Continue to Moscow, and UNESCO-listed Red Square, symbol of the Russian Empire since the 15th century, where Soviet leaders reviewed their troops in endless martial parades.

Softening this revolutionary focus, you’ll have time to appreciate the beauty and grandeur of Moscow’s Kremlin palaces and cathedrals, the undeniable genius of St. Petersburg’s Hermitage, and the glistening Amber Room at Catherine’s Palace in Pushkin. Take in a performance at a world-class venue, stroll the modern streets of St. Petersburg and Moscow and drop in at the former homes of poets and authors who helped illuminate the Russian soul.

J. Weili Cheng ’77, Executive Director
Association of Yale Alumni

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Highlights

Visit St. Petersburg’s Finland Station, the terminal through which Lenin escaped to Finland and later triumphantly returned. It is the only train station that remained open during the Siege of Leningrad, receiving supplies via the Road of Life across Lake Ladoga.

Attend lectures by Jay Winter, Professor of History Emeritus at Yale University, filling you in on the historical and cultural significance of the October Revolution.

Browse the New Tretyakov Museum, devoted to Russian art from the 1920s up to the present. Canvases by the likes of Kandinsky, Chagall and Goncharova fill the huge space along with kitschy Soviet pieces.
ITINERARY
JULY 21-30, 2018

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Tuesday, July 10 (tentative)
Join the group at 4PM EST for a pre-trip welcome call with the professor in order to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

DEPART USA • ARRIVE ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA
Saturday-Sunday July 21-22
Depart the USA on flights bound for St. Petersburg, Russia. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel for a brief orientation and welcome dinner. **Kempinski Hotel Moika 22**. Meals: Inflight, D

ST. PETERSBURG • PUSHKIN
Monday, July 23
A convergence of art and soul, UNESCO-listed St. Petersburg survived the calamitous 20th century with its reputation as a storehouse of Russian culture intact. Head outside the city to Catherine’s Palace to admire the fully restored Amber Room. Visit the Museum of the Great War, the first museum in Russia dedicated to telling the story of Russia’s part in the First World War. **Kempinski Hotel Moika 22**. Meals: B, L, D

ST. PETERSBURG
Tuesday, July 24
Spend some time at the world-renowned Hermitage Museum. Originally a small private palace gallery, begun by Catherine the Great with a purchase of 255 paintings from Berlin, the Hermitage today houses one of the largest and finest museum collections in the world. After Nicholas II abdicated his throne in the spring of 1917, the Provisional Government set up shop here. Later that year, in October, the Cruiser Aurora, anchored outside on the Neva, fired the shot that signaled the storming of the Winter Palace and the beginning of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Discover Finland Station, famous for being the terminal through which Lenin escaped to Finland and later triumphantly returned. Explore the Peter and Paul Fortress, the burial place for most of the czars, beginning with Peter the Great. This evening, subject to schedules, take in a performance at one of St. Petersburg’s world-class theaters. **Kempinski Hotel Moika 22**. Meals: B, D

ST. PETERSBURG • MOSCOW
Thursday, July 26
Visit the historic Smolny Institute. During the October Revolution, Lenin used the Smolny Institute as his headquarters, and it still houses municipal offices. It’s possible to tour the rooms that Lenin occupied during the night of the October Revolution, normally off-limits to travelers. A private museum guide offers a deeper insight into the life and work of one of Russia’s most significant figures.

Get a sense of the scale and scope of the local and international upheaval caused by the Russian Revolution.

In 1906, Russia’s first self-governing body, the State Duma, assembled in the Tauride (now Tverskoy) Palace. Thereafter the palace was the venue for the revolutionary Petrograd Soviet, the Provisional Government, and the Bolshevik’s 7th Congress, during which they named themselves the Russian Communist Party.

Inspect the cruiser *Aurora*, which fired the shot (a blank) that signaled the Bolsheviks to charge the Winter Palace during the 1917 revolution. Stop at the Church of the Savior on Spilt Blood, built on the spot where Czar Alexander II was felled by a bomb in 1881. **Kempinski Hotel Moika 22**. Meals: B, L, D

ST. PETERSBURG • MOSCOW
Thursday, July 26
Discover the house museum of poet Anna Akhmatova, who lived in a communal apartment on the Fontanka for almost thirty years. For many of those years she was not allowed to publish or perform her poems. Board the afternoon express train to Moscow. **Ararat Park Hyatt Hotel**. Meals: B, L (boxed lunch on the train), D

MOSCOW
Friday, July 27
Visit the house museum of one of the world’s best-known authors, Lev Tolstoy. Founded in 1911 in
a beautiful early 19th-century building, the museum’s collection includes Tolstoy’s manuscripts, photographs, portraits, and memorabilia. Subject to schedules, attend a top-notch performance at the famed Bolshoi Theater this evening. Designed in neoclassical style, the theater is fronted by eight stately columns and topped by a bronze sculpture of Apollo.

Ararat Park Hyatt Hotel  Meals: B, L

MOSCOW
Saturday, July 28
Today, survey Red Square and the vivid exterior of St. Basil’s Cathedral, built to celebrate Ivan the Terrible’s victory at the Tatar stronghold of Kazan in 1552. The domes were not patterned and colored as they are today until a hundred years later. Browse the shops at GUM, the former Department Store of the State, a glass-topped 1890s arcade of booths. Originally a marketplace sheltering over a thousand merchants, the building was nationalized after the revolution and used for many years as a staging area for the enormous parades on Red Square. Walk through the Kremlin, admiring its churches and public buildings. Tour the Armory Museum, housing Russia’s national treasures.

Ararat Park Hyatt Hotel  Meals: B, L, D

MOSCOW
Sunday, July 29
The Tretyakov Gallery was founded by 19th-century Russian merchant, Pavel Tretyakov. The history and trajectory of Russian art are displayed here, encompassing pieces from the 11th century to the present. Following lunch, opt for free time, or join the afternoon visit to the massive concrete Central House of Artists. On the second floor is the New Tretyakov Museum, devoted to Russian art from the 1920s up to the present. Canvases by the likes of Kandinsky, Chagall, and Goncharova fill the huge space. Gather for a festive farewell dinner marking the conclusion of the program.

Ararat Park Hyatt Hotel  Meals: B, L, D

MOSCOW
Monday, July 30
Transfer to the airport for your international flights.

Meals: B, flight time permitting

Included meals indicated each day as B/L/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner.

What is Included:

• Educational program of lectures and discussions with Professor Jay Winter
• All accommodation based on double occupancy per itinerary with breakfast daily, local service charge and tax (standard hotel check-in/out times apply unless otherwise noted): St. Petersburg (4 nights); Moscow (4 nights)
• Arrival and departure airport transfers for all travelers arriving and departing on the published tour start and end dates
• Ground transportation per itinerary by a private, air-conditioned coach
• One-way tickets for the express train from St. Petersburg to Moscow in business class.
• All sightseeing and excursions, including entrance fees per itinerary
• Local English speaking guides throughout itinerary
• Services of a professional MIR tour manager throughout the program
• Special cultural features as stated in itinerary, including tickets for evening theater performances in St. Petersburg and Moscow, subject to schedules.
• Meals as listed in itinerary
• Beverages with lunches and dinners: water, tea, coffee
• Bottled/purified water with meals and on buses during tours and transfers
• Gratuities to tour manager, local guides and drivers
• Baggage handling at hotels and railway stations
• Destination preparation information packet

What is Not Included:

• International airfare between the U.S. and the tour start and end cities; air taxes or fuel surcharges; pre- or post-tour services; visa or passport fees; medical and trip cancellation/interruption insurance; evacuation costs; food or beverages not included in group meals; baggage handling at airports where porter services are not available; items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcohol, telephone expenses, excess baggage fees, photo/video expenses inside museums (where allowed); other items not expressly listed as included.
Program Cost

The base cost this program is: $6,785 (based on double occupancy)

Single Supplement: $1,250 (limited availability)

Note: Itinerary is subject to change. Some excursions in this program involve a significant amount of walking.

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MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL

The right is retained to decline, to accept, or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel (“YET”), is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

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passport origin relationship to other guest

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Photo Credit: MIR Corporation.
Join fellow alums on a foray into the enigma that is Russia, unraveling the strands of its 20th-century history with an expert study leader. Explore its great cities, St. Petersburg and Moscow, discovering a profusion of creative genius as well as the darker side of revolutionary ferment.