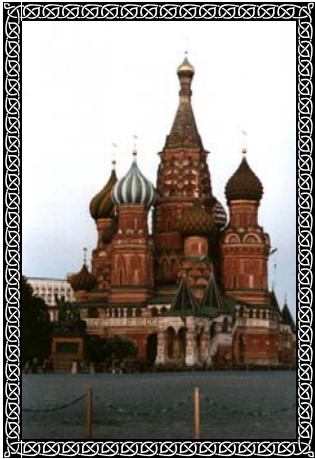


Ayelet's "Traveling University"



Russia

St. Petersburg & Moscow



With lectures throughout by our Scholar-in-Residence,
Prof. Stephen Berk

July 17 – 24, 2008

\$3,699 Land Only
(per person based on double occupancy)

Tour Includes:

- ♦ 3 Nights at the Emerald Hotel in St. Petersburg
- ♦ 1 Night on first-class sleeper train from St. Petersburg to Moscow
- ♦ 2 Nights at the Metropole Hotel in Moscow
- ♦ Licensed English-speaking guide throughout
- ♦ Breakfast daily at your hotel
- ♦ 3 dinners, including Shabbat dinner
- ♦ 1 lunch
- ♦ Sightseeing, touring and entrance fees per itinerary
- ♦ Group transfers upon arrival and departure
- ♦ Portage
- ♦ Hotel taxes and services

Featured Highlights:

- ♦ **LECTURES THROUGHOUT BY PROF. STEPHEN BERK**
- ♦ Guided tour of the Peter and Paul Fortress
- ♦ Petrodvorets, summer residence of the Tsars
- ♦ St. Petersburg's Choral Synagogue, the Public Library's Jewish Manuscripts, and the "Formula of Sorrow"
- ♦ The Hermitage art collection
- ♦ Evening folklore performance and dinner in St. Petersburg
- ♦ Red Square, the Kremlin, Lenin's Tomb, St. Basil's Cathedral, and GUM Department Store
- ♦ Moscow's Great Synagogue, Polyakov Synagogue, and the former building of the Jewish State Theater
- ♦ The wooden Marina Roshcha Synagogue, the former apartment of Marc Chagall, the Choral Synagogue, and Nikolskaya Street
- ♦ **SO MUCH MORE!**

Dr. Stephen M. Berk is a Professor of History at Union College in Schenectady, New York. He has been named the Henry and Sally Schaeffer Chair of Holocaust and Jewish Studies at Union College. Dr. Berk is considered a superb lecturer and teacher. He is the author of *Year of Crisis, Year of Hope: Russian Jewry and the Pogroms of 1881-1882* and is presently writing a book



entitled, *Our People Are Your People: American Jewry and the Struggle for Civil Rights 1854-1965*. Dr. Berk is also the author of many articles on Eastern Europe, Russian Jewish History, anti-Semitism and American policy in the Middle East. He has lectured in numerous cities for UJA and Israel Bonds as well as at many colleges and universities throughout the United States. Dr. Berk has led numerous trips to Russia, Spain, Europe, Israel and Eastern Europe. It is a privilege to have him with us!

PLEASE NOTE: Airfare is not included. When you are ready to purchase your air tickets, please contact our office for best available fares and flight schedules.

Ayelet Tours, Ltd.

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E-mail: ayelet@ayelet.com



Proposed Itinerary

Day 1, Thursday, July 17, 2008: Depart from the United States on our overnight flight to St. Petersburg. Dinner and breakfast served on board.

Day 2, Friday, July 18, 2008: Upon arrival in St. Petersburg, we are met and assisted at the airport and enjoy an orientation tour en route to our hotel. St. Petersburg is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The stately architecture of the city's buildings harmonizes with the precise layout of its streets and spacious squares, gardens, rivers and canals, beautiful embankments, bridges and monuments. A relatively "new" city, it was founded in 1708 by Peter the Great, who engaged the finest scholars, architects and sculptors in constructing this pre-revolutionary home of the Tsars. We drive past the Smolny Institute and the famous Bronze Horseman statue, continue down the broad Nevsky Prospect shopping street, passing the Admiralty and many important historical sights. This afternoon we have a guided tour of the Peter and Paul Fortress with the tombs of Peter the Great and the Romanov Dynasty. Tonight we enjoy Shabbat dinner together. Overnight in St. Petersburg.

Day 3, Saturday, July 19, 2008: After breakfast at our hotel, the morning is free, or we may choose to attend Shabbat services. This afternoon we visit Petrodvorets, the former summer residence of the Tsars, which was built by Peter the Great as the Russian answer to Versailles. A system of multiple fountains and waterfalls with an abundance of gold sculptures below the Grand Palace is still being restored following the destruction of World War II, a remarkable testimony to the skill of the restorers. From the terrace we view the cascade of the 129 fountains. Overnight St. Petersburg.

Day 4, Sunday, July 20, 2008: Following breakfast we tour the Hermitage Museum with its incomparable collections of art treasures. Originally the Winter Palace of the Tsars, the Hermitage was not opened to the public until 1852. Catherine the Great was the first ruler to collect art on a large scale and the museum contains many objects of Russian culture and Oriental art in addition to its huge collection of Western masters. The Hermitage possesses one of the world's richest collections of impressionist paintings, thanks largely to the private collections of Stroganov and Yusupov families and others who commissioned such artists as Bonnet, Cezanne, Picasso and Matisse. This evening we enjoy dinner with folklore entertainment at a local restaurant. Overnight St. Petersburg.

Day 5, Monday, July 21, 2008: After breakfast, we visit the Choral Synagogue. Next is an excursion to the town of Tsarskoye Selo, the home of the Imperial family from the days of Peter the Great up to the time of the last Tsar. We visit the 18th century palace of Catherine the Great, a baroque masterpiece with a facade almost 304 meters long. The building is still being restored after extensive damages from World War II. Next to the parks and palaces stands the town itself, developed mainly in the 19th century as a summer resort for the aristocracy and well-to-do of St. Petersburg. The town was the home of the great poet Alexander Pushkin, whose statue was used for target practice by German soldiers during World War II. On the way back to St. Petersburg we stop at the "Formula of Sorrow", a memorial to the victims of the holocaust. We return to St. Petersburg. The last stop today is the magnificent St. Isaac's Cathedral. This architectural monument of stupendous size has an abundance of sculptured decorations of great beauty, reliefs, gilt work and marble. Tonight we board our comfortable sleeper train to Moscow. Overnight on the train!

Day 6, Tuesday, July 22, 2008: Upon arrival in Moscow we transfer to our hotel. We enjoy a guided tour of Moscow, including Red Square, the Kremlin, Lenin's Tomb, G.U.M. Department Store, St. Basil's Cathedral, and the Arbat shopping district. Optional evening cultural activity. Overnight Moscow.

Day 7, Wednesday, July 23, 2008: After breakfast we embark upon a morning tour of Jewish Moscow, featuring the Great Synagogue, Polyakov synagogue, the former Jewish State Theater building, the apartment building where the artist Mark Chagall worked, the wooden Marina Roschcha Synagogue, the Choral Synagogue, and Nikolskaya Street. Farewell dinner and overnight Moscow.

Day 8, Thursday, July 24, 2008: Following breakfast we transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States.

The Memories Last Forever!

Tour does not include: REQUIRED VISAS TO RUSSIA. Airfare, departure taxes and fuel surcharges (approx. \$220.00), tips (\$12.00 per person, per day, pre-collected), items of a personal nature, \$15.00 shipping and handling fees per household, or travel insurance (highly recommended). Price is based on double occupancy. Single supplement \$999.00. \$100 per person charge if cancelled once booked. \$250 per person charged if cancelled 60-31 days before departure. 100% penalty applied if cancelled 30 days or less before

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Yes! I want to join Ayelet Tours, Ltd. and Professor Stephen Berk on their tour to Russia!

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