

# White Nights in St. Petersburg

**Tour Date**  
04.06.22 - 20.06.22  
11.06.22 - 27.06.22  
Cut-off Date: 31.03.2022



## CHARACTERISTICS/IDEA BEHIND THIS TOUR:

- + get a taste of the Baltic capitals
- + intensive stay in St. Petersburg during peak season
- + good for working people, not too long
- + good starting point for exploring Scandinavia
- + a lot of programme
- less leisure time
- the bureaucracy upon entering Russia
- tour is in parts identical to R15

## PREPARATION:

**Travel documents\*:** Passport (validity until 6 months after tour), international driving license, green card, visa, Camping-Key-Card (for Scandinavia)

**Visa\*:** The visa is included in the tour price. We require from you: passport, passport photographs, a proof of your travel health insurance and a document that you will return home.

**CB-radio:** Not required, should you like to travel with the tour leader, a cb-radio is recommended.

**Car Insurance:** All countries of this trip are part of the green card system. Some insurances have to be asked to cover Russia. As the local cover is rather low we recommend that you are insured fully comprehensive.

**Vaccinations:** None are compulsory. A Covid-19 vaccination may be necessary to enter a country/ avoid quarantine. More information at [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

**Pets:** require a pet passport and close to

departing from home attestation from an official veterinarian. A treatment against tapeworm has to be taken in St. Petersburg prior to entering Scandinavia.

**Pre-Tour Meeting:** The pre-tour meeting in Germany, at which we also collect the copies of your passport takes place on April 9th and is only open to booked participants. As a service to our only-English speaking clients may take place as Online Meeting.

## TOUR LOGISTICS:

**Meeting Point:** Official meeting point for tour start is in Malbork. As an individual meeting place we recommend a place near the German-Polish border near Küstrin. From here you may travel together with other participants.

**Tour Leader:** Your tour leader informs regularly about driving stages and daily programmes. If needed he has local support staff.

**Driving Stages:** You may drive all stages by yourselves. The tour leader offers to go with him/her, or join up with a fellow minded group member. We recommend passing across borders in the group.

**Road Conditions:** The roads in Poland and the Baltic States are generally okay. In Russia the main roads are good, some roadworks. The side roads will be of all kinds of material often with potholes.

**Overnight Places:** The overnight places in Russia are so-called hotel sites. This is the car park at the hotel which gives us the

necessary infrastructure. The other overnights are in regular campsites of local standard, but occasionally have the characteristics of an aire. They might be chosen for being a good starting point for the city tour rather than being a holiday site.

**Supplies:** Electricity and water are available daily. Grey water disposal is available on most sites. The Re-Fill of gas bottles may be arranged with the tour leader if really required.

## **Mobility Rating: 2**

See catalogue "Your Journey with Mir Tours" point 7). The required degree of mobility usually only relates to some programmes and segments of the sightseeing. If your walking is not that great, you may still join this trip. To do this, you would skip one or the other programme item or shorten it. We would be happy to discuss the trip with you in this regard. In case you use a tool such as a rollator or travel wheelchair, please note that these may also have to be lifted into the means of transport.

## **Food Supply:**

Supermarkets with a good selection, similar to western standards are available enroute. Gluten- and lactose-free products are available in larger supermarkets.

**Safety & Security:** Safety is guaranteed on the camping / parking spaces. In the large cities, please watch out for pick-pockets.

## **Climate:**

Best time to travel is between June and August

**Clothing:** 🇪🇺 Be aware of temperature changes to single digits if travelling on further North.

**Ferry:** Curonian Spit – main land Crosses every 20 mins and tickets are purchased upon departure. The tariffs are as per your gross weight, i.e. up to 3,5t

### MONEY MATTERS

**Tour Price: 1.580,- €** per person with the own car + caravan or camper when two persons travel in one vehicle Additional charge for a single driver 15%

### **Fuel:**

In Poland and the Baltic States the fuel prices are nearly as high as Central Europe. In Russia the prices are approx. 30% cheaper

### **Additional costs/travel funds:**

Up to 80 € per vehicle for tolls, border fees and insurances

approx. 45 € per Unit fee for the Curonian Spit incl. ferry.

approx. 18 € per person/day to cover your living expenses

Up to 2€ per person/day for tips

Also plan a little buffer for souvenirs, mishaps, doctor etc.

In Poland, the Baltic States and the major Russian cities, you can pay with a card at petrol stations, souvenir shops and the larger supermarkets.

**Money Exchange:** without problems 🇪🇺 ATM machines are available for use of your debit or credit card.

🇪🇺 = like in Western Europe

🇪🇺 = will be discussed at length during the pre-tour meeting

All this information is subject to change and is meant for this route as part of a group tour. There might be differences if you book an individual tour to these countries.

\* The information about visa and travel documents is considering that your passport is issued by Switzerland or in a country that belongs to both the EU and the Schengen area. For the other countries we will inform you individually.

### MANDATORY INFORMATION

**Cut-off Date:** 31.03.2022

On this date we have to decide if sufficient participants to run this tour have been reached. Ideally, you should have booked by this point.

**Booking Closes:** 15.05.2022

Should you be unable to book earlier, this is the last day that booking is possible under the condition that you bring your documents in time and the required number of participants has been reached at the cut-off date.

**Payments due:** upon booking 10% a further 10% is due by 10.04. / 17.04.22 Final payment due by 05.05 / 12.05.2022

**Cancellation fee:** in percentage of tour price; is dependent on the time left to the tour start.

as of booking = 10%

day 54. - 30. before tour start = 25%

day 29. - 10. before tour start = 35%

from day 9. before tour start = 75%

### GENERAL SERVICES:

**Organization & Booking:** We order the included programmes for your and book the overnight places. For us – as a registered tour operator – the compliance with travel law is obligatory.

**Entry fees for included programme:** The tour price includes the normal entry fees for the sights we have put in the programme. Should there be additional parts (special exhibitions) that are not of interest for everyone they might be at your leisure. Example: We visit the Kremlin as part of the Moscow sightseeing and we pay the entry ticket. Should you opt to see the tsars' weapon chamber you pay this out of your own purse.

**Visa /Visa fees (RUS double-entry):** You hand over the required documents. We will fill out the visa form and obtain the necessary visa.

The German and English-speaking **tour leader** will meet you in the afternoon of the first day in Malbork and will accompany you until Day 17. His tasks are:

- to inform you regularly about overnight places, meals, stage, fuelling, shopping and leisure options.
- offer to join him on the driving stages.
- give you support in case of mishaps like illness or vehicle break-downs

The **resignation** (travel cancellation) **insurance** is covering if you cannot go on tour due to an insured reason. The **break-off** (travel curtailment) **insurance** refunds the part of the tour price that you did not partake in due to an insured reason. More details on insured reasons can be found in the annex.

During the **participant meeting** (including one camping fee) you can get to know other fellow travellers and clarify all open questions about the trip. Approx. 10 days after the physical meeting, we will have a virtual online meeting to clarify any questions that have arisen in the meantime.

**Information Material:** We create an information booklet for this tour. This informs about all relevant topics from equipment to customs. Forms, brochures, booklets about sites and stages are added by us. Also, you receive GPS waypoints and map material so all participants have the same opportunities.

### USEFUL INFORMATION:

When putting this trip together, we are still in the situation that the SARS-Covid19 pandemic is affecting our lives and travels. Please note our general information on this topic in the travel catalogue, as well as our **Corona** promise.

We assume that everyone who goes on a group trip has also taken advantage of the vaccination offer in order to protect themselves and their fellow travellers from infection. Unvaccinated persons could be refused entry or, when crossing the border - regardless of the direction – may be quarantined, which cannot be reconciled with the travel plan. Should you suffer from a medical condition that prohibits a vaccination, please contact us.

The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU and the only recently concluded contracts for future cooperation may result in changes to the travel documents required. Please also note that there is a special information available for **customers from the UK**.

## **ITINERARY:**

### **Day 1 04.06.2022 / 11.06.2022**

#### **Malbork**

After the official welcome through the tour leader you will be briefed on the next day's itineraries. This is followed by a welcome dinner in the campsite restaurant.

*overnight fee, welcome dinner*

### **Day 2 05.06.2022 / 12.06.2022**

#### **Malbork - Kaliningrad**

The Masurian Lakeland with its forests, meadows and lakes will accompany us most of the route. After processing through the border, we will enter Russia for the first time on this tour. From the border it is another 60km to the site near the Kaliningrad ring road. In the evening we will have a meal in the nearby hotel restaurant.

*overnight fee, dinner, folklore*

### **Day 3 06.06.2022 / 13.06.2022**

#### **Kaliningrad**

Today we go sightseeing in Kaliningrad, the former Eastern-Prussian Königsberg. Being taken through the city by bus we will see the odd remains of Eastern Prussia. There is the cathedral which has been rebuilt on the island in the river Pregel. Another highlight is the amber museum.

*overnight fee, bus local guide, entry fee*

### **Day 4 07.06.2022 / 14.06.2022**

#### **Kaliningrad - Nida**

The Curonian Spit (Neringa in Lithuanian) gives us a special treat. The "Dancing Forest" is a unique farewell to Russia. The border is half-way on this peninsula and the campsite at Nida is quickly reached. Once settled we take a walk to the dunes and the town with the summer houses..

*overnight fee*

### **Day 5 08.06.2022 / 15.06.2022**

#### **Nida - Trakai**

We are following along the Curonian Spit to Klaipeda. On the way, we recommend a stop in Kaunas or at the Lithuanian open-air museum in Rumsiskės, which

is about 2/3 of the stage on the route. In the afternoon the campsite approx. 30 km west of Vilnius is reached. This site is relaxed and cozy. To get to the village it is around 3,5 km, but perhaps you like to take a walk along the lake which is only 500m away. In the evening we have some typical local food with a folklore performance.

*overnight fee, dinner, folklore*

### **Day 6 09.06.2022 / 16.06.2022**

#### **Trakai/ Vilnius**

By bus and coach we will visit the first of the Baltic capitals today. Lithuania and Vilnius developed quickly after the Perestroika. This is down to the Lithuanian Americans who saw it as their duty to support their former homeland economically. Quick investments towards the restoration of cultural and historical buildings and festival made Vilnius look good. Being European capital of culture in 2009 gave the town another boost. We will spend a few hours in the old town to see the Peter & Paul church, the old city wall, the town hall and the church of Saint Anne. Stroll through the little alleys, either during the guided tour or in the spare time afterwards. In the afternoon we will have a quick photo stop at the water castle in Trakai. The visit of this is optional.

*overnight fee, bus, local guide*

### **Day 7 10.06.2022 / 17.06.2022**

#### **Trakai - Riga**

About two hours out of Vilnius we will reach Siauliai. Just north of the town is an important sight, "The Mountain of Crosses". Here Lithuanians created a monument to their catholic belief under the reign of the Soviet Union. The Communists flattened the area with bulldozers several times. Each time the crosses would start reappearing and many crosses are still added every day. On the way further north we reach the border to Latvia next, this is passed without any stopping and checking. After the border you have the option to digress to the right and visit the Rundāle Manor. Rundāle Palace is a large, representative house, the owners of which held im-

portant positions in both Courland and the Tsarist Empire. Not only the house, this complex known as the "Versailles of the Baltic States" is worth seeing. A stroll through the French and the rose garden is worth this detour. From here it is another two hours to Riga. The campsite is situated on an island near the city centre. The day ends with a group dinner.

*overnight fee, dinner*

### **Day 8 11.06.2022 / 18.06.2022**

#### **Riga**

Riga is the largest of the Baltic capitals and rather spread out. In the morning we take the bus with the local guide to the centre of the former hanseatic town. The city centre, the Blackheads house, the art-deco-quarter and more. After a good two-hour sightseeing there is also some spare time, i.e., to visit the main market in the to see the Zeppelin hangars. It is up to you whether you want to go home then or if you want to stay on in town. The campsite is easily reached by taxi or bus.

*overnight fee, Bus, local guide*

### **Day 9 12.06.2022 / 19.06.2022**

#### **Riga - Tallinn**

A driving day with the first half of the tour running along the Baltic Coast – or more specific along the Bay of Riga – where beaches invite you to a break. Half way the town of Pärnu, known for a rather Scandinavian ambience, is ideal to take a break. The second half takes you more or less directly from Pärnu to Tallinn.

*overnight fee*

### **Day 10 13.06.2022 / 20.06.2022**

#### **Tallinn**

Insiders claim that Tallinn is the prettiest of the three Baltic capitals. We will visit the former European capital of culture by looking by being taking to the upper part of town with a private bus. Then we visit the old town on foot before going to have an Estonian lunch. The tour leader will equip you with the information enabling you to return with the local bus. This easy option enables you to roam around this beautiful small capital a bit more.

*overnight fee, bus, local guide, lunch*

**Day 11 14.06.2022 / 21.06.2022****Tallinn - Toila**

Right at the beginning of the stage there are various opportunities for optional stops: the celebrity cemetery, the botanical garden, the television tower. In the further course there is the captain's village and on about half the way we recommend an extensive stop at the Palmse manor. The estate, part hotel - part museum, is surrounded by a nice park and a typical example of its kind. The campsite is near a spa complex and prior to our group dinner we will talk through the border crossing into Russia

*overnight fee, dinner*

**Day 12 15.06.2022 / 22.06.2022****Toila - St. Petersburg**

This day is set aside for crossing the border from Estonia into Russia, getting to the campsite on the outskirts of St. Petersburg and settling in. We are leaving the European Union once more and there is some administrative work to be done. From the border you may drive to the campsite on the outskirts of St. Petersburg on your own or in small groups.

*overnight fee*

**Day 13 16.06.2022 / 23.06.2022****St. Petersburg**

This is one of the longest sightseeing days of the tour, with a bus and a local guide. On the drive into the town centre we get know something about the history of the city. We see the Newskij Prospekt, the Kazan Cathedral, the Admiralty, the Russian Museum, Grand Hotel "Europe" and the Church of the Saviour on Blood before we get a little private time. Later it's on to the Decembrists Square (now Senate Square) with the monument of Peter the Great and inside the Isaacs Cathedral. At the Hermitage, which we will visit for around two hours we will make our meeting point. You will have around two hours to pursue your own interests. We should be back at our vehicles at 17:00, but the day is not over. In the late evening we will visit the city once more in order to experience the "White Nights".

*overnight fee, bus, local guide, programme "White Nights"*

**Day 14 17.06.2022 / 24.06.2022****St. Petersburg**

Again, we engage on a grand excursion. The bus and the local guide will take us to Pushkin also known as Zarskoye Selo (tsars village), to see the summer residence of Catherine the Great. Built in the time of Peter the Great by his wife Katharina, the Catherine Palace was extensively expanded and embellished, especially by Catherine II the Great. In addition to some of the private and representative rooms, we will of course visit the reconstructed Amber Room. This was created more than 300 years ago by German craftsmen and given to Tsar Peter as a present. The original was lost in WW2 and it is one of the great mysteries if it was destroyed or still waiting somewhere to be re-discovered. Following the palace tour there is chance to see the parks. The grotto, the Cameron Gallery, or the Hermitage are the most important buildings in the park, along with bathhouses and pavilions. Of course, you can also spend your free time in Pushkin. There are various references to the famous poet, an interesting farmers market and various places to stop for a break. In the late afternoon we are back at our vehicles.

*overnight fee, bus, local guide, entry fee*

**Day 15 18.06.2022 / 25.06.2022****St. Petersburg**

Today we will go and visit the Peterhof Palace, one of the most beautiful tsar's summer residences, whose magnificent park with water features, according to the statement of the contemporary French ambassador, even surpasses Versailles. The palace was built to show off the Tsars idea of expansion and imperialism. Here we will however, not visit the actual palace but the park and the gardens with the cascades and fountains. The impressive grand cascade is one of the major sights. Walk through the spacious park and garden to discover various trick fountains in the lower gardens; constructed to splash the visi-

tors. After visiting the park, you will have free time to stroll through the park. If there is enough time, we can also make a detour to Kronstadt. Because of the naval base on Kotlin Island you can see ships and submarines of the Baltic fleet, former fortifications and some monuments. The marine cathedral is definitely worth a visit, because the structure is impressive. In the early evening the bus brings the group back to the campsite.

*overnight fee, bus, local guide, entry fee*

**Day 16 19.06.2022 / 26.06.2022****St. Petersburg**

Day at leisure: can be used for optional programs or for exploring the cosmopolitan city of Saint Petersburg on your own. Erected in a very short time - on the orders of the great reformer Peter I - on the swamps of the Neva Delta and the bones of thousands of stonemasons and builders, one of the youngest metropolises is emblazoned both in its original splendor and in the splendor of modernity. The best thing to do is to stroll along the Neva quay yourself and let the backdrop of baroque palaces and the magic of the White Nights sink in, or immerse yourself in the hustle and bustle of Nevsky Prospect, where you can buy everything your heart desires.

*overnight fee, dinner*

**Day 17 20.06.2022 / 27.06.2022****St. Petersburg**

The tour leader accompanies you to the first border post, so you can travel on individually. Alternatively you may get an extended visa and stay longer in the city of the tsars for some individual exploring.

As per 12/2021  
Subject to change