



All Gay Northern European Treasures!

Dates: Saturday, July 21 - Sunday, July 29, 2012

Extend to Moscow: Sunday, July 29 - Wednesday, August 1, 2012

If you haven't visited northern Europe's ultra-sophisticated capitals, then you haven't fully experienced Europe. Their setting alone is breathtaking – on the beautiful waters and inlets of the Baltic Sea. But their refined sensibility and stunning architecture will have you wondering why you waited so long to set your sights north. Join a Hermes small group in Scandinavia's grand capitals – Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Helsinki – and Russia's overlooked gem of St. Petersburg. We'll show you their wonders when traveling here is at its best, the warm days of July. And you just might find yourself with a new favorite European destination.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Copenhagen Tour**, including Amalienborg Castle and Tivoli Gardens
- **Stockholm Tour**, including Skansen Open-Air Museum and Royal Palace
- **Helsinki Tour**, including Church on the Rock and Seurasaari Open-Air Museum
- **2 St. Petersburg Tours**, including Hermitage Museum, Peter & Paul Fortress, Peterhof, and Catherine Palace
- **Overnight ferry accommodations** in an inside cabin from Stockholm to Helsinki.
- Accommodations for 6 nights in first class hotels
- Services of a Hermes Tours escort
- Services of an expert, local guide in all cities Entrance fees to all sites visited
- **\$100 per person savings if you reserve 5 months before departure!**

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 –Saturday, July 21, 2012 - Arrive in Copenhagen (D)

Upon arrival in Copenhagen, please make your way to our hotel. You'll have the afternoon free to stroll one of the world's most eco-friendly cities. More than a third of its citizens commute to work by bicycle. This evening join us for our Hermes welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 2 - Sunday, July 22, 2012 - Copenhagen (B)

After breakfast, we begin our Scandinavian exploration with a morning tour of the city. First, explore the rococo interiors of the grand Amalienborg Palace, winter home of the Danish royal family. Then stroll the delightful grounds of Tivoli Gardens, the second oldest amusement park in the world and home to the world's oldest roller coaster and Ferris wheel. The rest of your day is at leisure to discover this booming cultural center of northern Europe.

Day 3 - Monday, July 23, 2012 - Stockholm (B)

Journey by train today to Sweden's capital, whose city center sits on an archipelago of 14 islands. Upon arrival, you'll have time on your own to get acquainted with this city that is so intimately tied to the sea, perhaps strolling the inviting lanes of the Old Town.

Day 4 - Tuesday, July 24, 2012 - Stockholm (B)

Our morning tour includes a visit to Skansen Park; its remarkable open-air museum replicates Swedish life before the industrial age. Continue to the sprawling Royal Palace, where the country's monarchs keep their offices. Your afternoon is at leisure.

Day 5 - Wednesday, July 25, 2012 - Stockholm/Overnight ferry to Helsinki (B)

You have the entire day to yourself, perhaps to do some island-hopping on the city's extensive ferry system. Many of the city's major museums and monuments are on the charming island of Djurgarden, where you'll also find lovely waterfront promenades. Tonight, board an overnight ferry bound for Helsinki.

Day 6 - Thursday, July 26, 2012 - Helsinki/Train to St. Petersburg (B)

Today's exploration of Finland's capital includes the magnificent Church of the Rock, built into a natural rock foundation. You'll also visit the island of Seurasaari, a pastoral wonderland of remarkably preserved wooden houses that celebrate Finland's agrarian roots. This afternoon, we board our high speed train for the 3.5 hr ride to St. Petersburg, Russia.

Day 7 - Friday, July 27, 2012 - St. Petersburg (B)

Today we explore the breathtaking Hermitage Museum. Catherine the Great started this collection in 1764 with 317 paintings. Today, it holds the largest collection of paintings in the world. We also visit the Peter & Paul Fortress. The afternoon is free for you to explore this elegant city on your own.

Day 8 - Saturday, July 28, 2012 - St. Petersburg (B, D)

On today's full-day tour, we journey outside the city to Peterhof, a luxurious Imperial estate built in 1710 on the shore of the Gulf of Finland by Peter the Great. We'll also marvel at the rococo Catherine Palace, summer residence of Russian tsars. Join us tonight for a special Hermes Farewell Dinner.

Day 9 - Sunday, July 29, 2012 - Depart for home / Extend to Moscow (B)

Fly home today or join our optional extension to Moscow (more details to follow).

Optional Extension - Moscow

Day 9 - Sunday, July 29, 2012 - Extend to Moscow (B)

We have a free morning to further explore St. Petersburg. This afternoon we board our train to Moscow arriving in time for dinner. Check into our hotel.

Day 10 - Moscow - City Tour (Part I) (B, L)

After breakfast we begin our day of touring with a visit to Novodevitchy Convent. The Novodevichy Convent was founded in 1524. It was built as a fortress at a curve of the Moskva River and became an important part of the southern defensive belt of the capital, which had already included a number of other monasteries. After our included lunch we continue our tour with a leisurely sightseeing cruise along the Moskva River with wonderful views of the city.

Day 11 - Moscow City Tour (Part II) (B, L)

We start our tour today with Moscow's famous underground city. The Moscow Metro is known for the ornate design of many of its stations, which contain examples of socialist realist art.

After our underground art tour we visit the Kremlin. The Kremlin is not just where the political elite come to work but also a complex full of rich historical treasures. We enjoy guided tours of the Cathedrals and the Armory Chamber.

After our included lunch we walk into Red Square. Pictures do not do this place justice. The massive square flanked by Saint Basil's cathedral, The Kremlin, Lenin's Tomb and more. We stop at the GUM department store. Built in the 1890s this is much more than a place to shop but another display of Russian architecture. By 1917 GUM housed more than 1200 stores!

Day 12 - End of Tour (B)

Our tour ends today after breakfast. Because Moscow has 2 main airports (in opposite directions) we have not included a transfer to the airport today. You may take a taxi to the airport or if you prefer, we can arrange for a transfer for you.

TO RESERVE YOUR SPACE:

Please call **(877) 486-4335** or visit www.hermestours.com/book_now.php to make a reservation. A \$500 deposit is required. Payments may be done via any major credit card (without fee) or check. Final payment is due 80 days prior to departure via credit card (without fee) or check.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Main Tour Dates: Saturday, July 21 - Sunday, July 29, 2012

Price:

- \$2995 per person, double occupancy, land only.
Book 5 months before departure and save \$100!
- **Single Supplement:** \$870 USD, Not Required. Hermes Tours can match you with another traveler should you wish at no cost.
- Please note that there is a limited number of single rooms available.

Extension to Moscow Dates: Sunday, July 29 - Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Price:

- \$1199 per person, double occupancy, land only.
- **Single Supplement:** \$300, Not Required. Hermes Tours can match you with another traveler should you wish at no cost.

Hotels:

Copenhagen: 3* Scandic Copenhagen

Stockholm: Clarion Stockholm 3*+

St. Petersburg: Holiday Inn Moskovskye Vorota 3*+

Cruise Line : Viking Cruise Line - Stockholm - Helsinki

Moscow: Holiday Inn Lesnaya 3*

Included:

Please note that the above cost includes all accommodation in 3 star, gay friendly hotels, with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, portage, tips and service charges. All activities as outlined in the itinerary; all meals as per itinerary; economy class train/ferry tickets between cities, the services of a Hermes Tours Escort throughout the trip; all ground transportation as per itinerary; Entrance fees to all sites on itinerary.

Not Included:

International airfare to/from Copenhagen/St. Petersburg; airport transfers, passport & visa fees if applicable; personal travel and cancellation insurance; meals and activities not specifically included in the itinerary; services of a personal nature like alcohol; soft drinks; bottled water; laundry; telephone calls; faxes as well as customary tips to drivers and guides.

Visas:

Canadian and American passport holders are NOT required to have visas to enter Denmark & Sweden for tourism purposes. You MUST have a visa to enter Russia. We will provide you with a letter of invitation that you will use to get your visa

Shots and Immunizations:

There are no shots that are required for travel to Scandinavia/Russia but Hermes Tours does recommend that your tetanus booster be up to date.

Currency and Money Issues:

ATMs are readily available all throughout the countries we will be travelling to. The Visa and MasterCard credit cards are also widely accepted. The American Express card is less so. Please be aware that many European countries are now using a new "PIN" enabled credit cards that is not currently in use in the USA. American credit card holders **may** have issue with some vendors. It is now possible to purchase "loaded PIN" credit cards from many foreign exchange companies (located at airports and among others) that will be guaranteed to be accepted. Hermes Tours recommends that you carry 2 forms of payment to help avoid any issue. Please contact us for more details if you have questions.

Liabilities/Disclaimers

Making a reservation with a deposit will be considered to be consent to the following conditions:

Hermes Tours reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a member of the tour at any time and to make whatever changes become necessary with or without notice. Guaranteed departure with a minimum of 14 participants.

Hermes Tours is not responsible for airline cancellation or change penalties incurred by individual tour participants for air tickets purchased prior to notification that the tour is a confirmed departure.

Hermes Tours does not accept responsibility in whole or in part for any delay, loss, accidents, personal injury, sickness, medical expenses, or property damage occasioned by fault of any person from whatever cause. All participants are required to sign a standard liability form.