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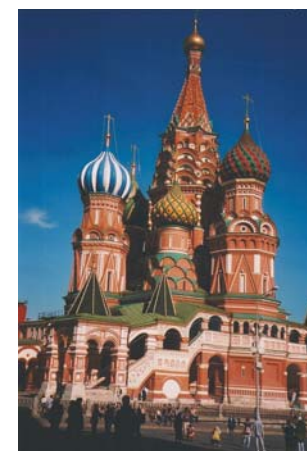


**VALOR TOURS, LTD.**  
*focussed expeditions*

Presents...

## **Victory Day in Russia**

Western Russia Military History Tour



**May 3 to 12, 2012**

**Escorted by Bill  
Altaffer**

**Featuring:**

**Specially arranged meeting with young cadets at St. Petersburg Naval Academy.**

**Visit Cruiser *Aurora* that fired the first shot during the 1917 revolution.**

**Visit Star City, premier training facility for cosmonauts.**

**Overnight train from Volgograd to Moscow**

**Descend 200 feet below Moscow to Cold War relics of the Secured Command Post "Tagansky"**

**...And much more**

**America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator**



*Tour Director, Bill Altaffer, is a travel writer and photographer. As a member of The Adventurers Club of L.A., he is the "World's Most Traveled Man" for 2005-10. Bill, along with his extensive contacts in Russia, assisted us in developing this itinerary. Pictured left in Volgograd while escorting our 2011 group.*

*Russia's military history is a long and complex story, involving famous names, long-lived dynasties, fierce battles on land and sea, bitter sieges, medieval Kremlin fortresses, spies, sputnik, MiGs and the Soyuz. Explore the eventful military history of Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union on this unusual survey of Moscow and St. Petersburg. Visit naval, air and space museums, monuments honoring the fallen in WWII – or the Great Patriotic War, as Russians know it – and battlegrounds whose names are familiar to students of 20<sup>th</sup> century history, and to anyone who lived through those times.*



Upper right: Cruiser Aurora in 1910 and below right Cruiser Aurora today.

## **Victory Day in Russia 2012 REGISTRATION FORM**

*Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, Calif. 94965 U.S.A.  
Questions? Call 1-800-842-4504.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*(as it appears on your passport without your middle name)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
*(as you would like it to appear on ID badge/passenger list)*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (days) \_\_\_\_\_

We wish to reserve \_\_\_ spaces on a \_\_\_ twin share basis (two persons to a hotel room), or \_\_\_ I am traveling alone and wish to pay the single supplement so as not to share my hotel room, or \_\_\_ share with another tour member: \_\_\_ Smoking \_\_\_ Non smoking

Enclosed is my/our check for the deposit in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person), or please charge my American Express account number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Valor Tours does not accept VISA or Master Card)*

Please arrange my/our air arrangements from \_\_\_\_\_ to Russia to coincide with tour in \_\_\_ Economy class or \_\_\_ business class.

Special needs, dietary requirements \_\_\_\_\_

Next of kin \_\_\_\_\_

I/we have read and understand the terms set forth in this brochure:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature* *Date*

### **Reservations and Final Payment**

Reservations can only be held with a deposit of \$500 per person accompanied by the Application form. Payments accepted in the form of a personal check or American Express. Out of country participants may use Paypal. We do not accept VISA or Master Card. While we recognize the convenience and other advantages of using credit cards, they do carry administration fees, which we would have to add to the cost of our tours. We choose not to do this. Final payment is normally due 90 days prior to departure unless otherwise stated on confirmation. Reservations will be accepted on a first come – first served basis. Valor Tours, Ltd. does not recommend that children under the age of 12 participate on this tour. Passport required. Visas are required. Tour cost based on minimum of 10 paying participants. Airfare from the U.S. to Russia not included, however if you need assistance with air arrangements we will be happy to do so.

### **Cancellations and Changes**

If Valor Tours, Ltd. receives cancellation more than 90 days prior to departure your deposit is fully refundable. Cancellations received between 89 and 30 days prior to commencement of tour subject to loss of deposit. Cancellation within 30 days or ‘no shows’ are non refundable. Refunds may take up to 30 days to process. Cancellation charges also apply to additional travel arrangements such as airfare. If flight changes are requested after airline tickets are issued, revision fees will apply. Travel medical emergency insurance is included in tour cost, but does not include cancellation or trip interruption coverage. Available upon request.

### **Baggage allowance**

We recommend one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person, please. Portage for one bag per person is included in the tour cost, however there may be times when you will be responsible for your baggage, so it is to the benefit of the passenger to travel light. Passengers are responsible for carry-on bags, purses, camera bags, briefcases, etc. No responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to baggage, or any of the passenger’s belongings. Limited baggage insurance is included in the tour cost.

### **Disabilities**

Any personal disability requiring special attention should be reported to Valor Tours at the time of reservation. Valor Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but is not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants and other independent suppliers. Motor coach companies and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion must accompany persons requiring such assistance. Be advised that foreign countries do not have the disabled and handicapped laws that Americans enjoy here at home.

### **Single travelers**

Single occupancy of hotel rooms is an additional \$850 over and above the tour cost. If you would like to avoid this expense, you may share with another single traveler. Valor Tours will make every attempt to find you a suitable roommate of the same age and gender, however Valor Tours, Ltd. cannot be held responsible for incompatibility, nor can they guarantee a roommate should one not be available. In that case, the single supplement will apply.

### **Not included in tour cost**

Meals not indicated in itinerary, airfare from the U.S., passport and visa fees, items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, alcoholic beverages, tipping to driver & guide, foreign airport departure taxes, cancellation/trip interruption insurance coverage. Valor Tours will be happy to assist with airfare arrangements.

## **Itinerary in brief – subject to change**

### **Thursday May 3 – Arrive St. Petersburg (D)**

On arrival in St. Petersburg, you will be met at the airport and transferred to Hotel Helvetia in the city center. Evening group dinner and briefing at local restaurant.

### **Friday May 4 – St. Petersburg (B, D)**

Full day city tour of St. Petersburg explores its rich military history including Winter Palace, Artillery Museum, naval fortress on Kronshtadt Island, boat tour of the forts and more. Evening dinner a dacha - private house with local hosts.

### **Saturday May 5 – St. Petersburg (B, L)**

Piskarev Memorial Cemetery, Siege Museum, Cruiser Aurora (now a floating museum), Peter and Paul Fortress on Hare Island and specially arranged meeting with young cadets at the St. Petersburg Naval Academy.

### **Sunday May 6 – St. Petersburg to Volgograd (B, D)**

Morning visit to Nevsky Bridgehead. Depart St. Petersburg and fly to Volgograd on the Volga River. Transfer to the historic Hotel Volgograd in the city center. Afternoon walking tour and evening dinner at hotel.

### **Monday May 7 – Volgograd (B, L)**

It was here in Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, where one of the most important battle of WWII in Europe took place, when the Russians turned back the Nazi advance to the Caucasian oil fields in Baku in a battle that claimed hundreds of thousands lives. Until this defeat, Hitler had not lost a major battle. This was considered the turning point of the war. Full day tour of Volgograd including the State Panoramic Museum of the “Stalingrad Battle”. Lunch with retired Russian army colonel.

### **Tuesday May 8 – Volgograd to Moscow (B)**

Morning free for independent exploration and shopping. Early afternoon transfer to train station for overnight train to Moscow in comfortable sleeper compartments equipped for two passengers with two lower berths.

### **Wednesday May 9 – Moscow (L, D)**

Arrive Moscow by train in the morning – Victory Day. Today Moscow is a booming metropolis; a combination of ancient churches aside 21<sup>st</sup> century financial institutions. From the train station to the Hotel Park Inn Sadu, embark on an introductory drive past some of Moscow’s best-known places such as the Duma Bldg., the Bolshoi Theater, Lubyanka prison where the KGB was Headquartered, Moscow State University. After lunch visit the WWII Memorial in Victory Park on Farewell Hill. In 1812 Napoleon stood with his troops on this hill waiting for the keys to the city, only to lose thousands of his troops to the harsh Russian winter on his retreat. Visit adjacent War Museum. After dinner, fireworks viewing not far from hotel.

### **Thursday May 10 – Moscow (B, L)**

Today continue exploring military history sites in and around the city including the Aviation Museum in Monino, the largest in Russia; Space Exploration Museum; Secured Command Post “Tagansky” 200 feet below Moscow, a relic of Cold War

days. This evening take a tour of Moscow's famous underground system, the METRO.

### Friday May 11 – Moscow (B, L, D)

By special invitation, today visit the Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in once classified Star City, the premier training facility for Russian cosmonauts and foreign astronauts. Lunch with Russian cosmonaut who will give first hand account of his training and space missions. Each tour member will receive certificate recognizing his or her visit to Star City. Farewell dinner tonight.



Yuri Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center

### Saturday May 12 – Depart Moscow for home (B)

Morning transfer to airport for flights home and to other points in Europe if you wish.  
\*Optional post-tour extension to Kursk (see below).

*Subject to change. A more detailed itinerary and information on obtaining a Russian visa will be sent to all participants on deposit.*

## Tour cost based on twin share \$5190 per person Single occupancy of hotel rooms \$850

Includes all hotel accommodations; meals indicated with B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner; airport/hotel round trip transfers; all ground transportation and sightseeing by private coach; train from Volgograd to Moscow (twin share only) in sleeper compartments; air fare from St. Petersburg to Volgograd; all entrance fees; local English speaking guides; bottled water on coach daily; services of Bill Altaffer as tour historian and escort; emergency travel insurance.

Based on minimum of 10 full fare participants. We do not recommend participation by children less than 12 years of age. Not included airfare from the U.S. to Russia, passport or visa fees, meals not included, items of a personal nature such as phone calls, laundry, alcoholic beverages with meals, tips to local guides or drivers.

### \*Optional post-tour extension to Kursk, site of the largest tank battle

Fri May 11 After trip to Star City and farewell dinner, transfer to train station for overnight train to Kursk.

Sat May 12 Train arrives Kursk, transfer to hotel, breakfast and afternoon city tour.

Sun May 13 Day trip outside of city to Prohorovka, site of the tank battle. Back to the city, farewell dinner and train back to Moscow.

Mon May 14 Train arrives Moscow – transfer to airport for flight departures.

Based on min. 4 pax \$1445 per person. Based on min. 5 pax for Bill Altaffer to accompany \$1445 per person.

Includes round trip transfers, train, hotel accommodations in Kursk, three dinners, two breakfasts, one lunch, sightseeing as indicated.



*A huge sculpture in the background is entitled "Mother Russia" and is located on the top of Mamaev Hill. This statue is at the top of the complex dedicated to Heroes of the Battle of Stalingrad. The sculpture is one of the largest and most famous monuments in the world. Its height is 52 meters and weights 8 thousand tons.*



Artillery museum in St. Petersburg



*"...I was very pleased with the choice of hotels...our local guides were outstanding. All the drivers were safe and very competent. Train from Volgograd to Moscow – loved it! Great way to see the countryside & the typical villages. A unique experience. Volgograd was very moving..."*  
MaryAnn Smith, 2011