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Accredited by



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

Presents...

## **Victory Day in Russia**

Western Russia Military History Tour



**May 1 to 11, 2018**

**Escorted by Bill  
Altaffer**

**Featuring:**

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

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

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

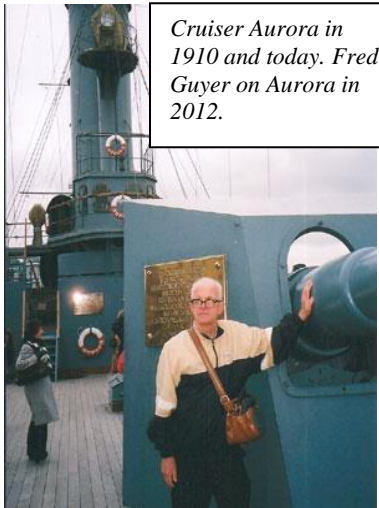
**...And much more**

**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.*



*Cruiser Aurora in 1910 and today. Fred Guyer on Aurora in 2012.*



## **Victory Day in Russia 2018 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1000 per person), or please charge my \*credit card:

Exp \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

\*Currently only accepting AX or check.

### **Reservations and Final Payment**

Reservations can only be held with a deposit of \$1000 per person accompanied by the Application form. Payments accepted in the form of a personal check or American Express. 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 6 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 \$600 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.

### **Travel insurance**

Emergency travel insurance is included in cost of tour, however cancellation coverage is not, but available upon request for additional charge.

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

### **Tuesday 1st May 2018 Arrive St. Petersburg**

Arrive in St. Petersburg. Transfer to Hotel. Evening group dinner and briefing. Overnight in St Petersburg in Novotel or similar.

### **Wednesday 2nd May 2018 St. Petersburg**

Full day city tour of St. Petersburg explores its rich military history including visiting the Artillery Museum, the naval fortress on Kronstadt Island, a boat tour and a Hermitage museum tour (summer palace). Overnight in St Petersburg in Novotel or similar.

### **Thursday 3rd May 2018 St. Petersburg**

Another full day in St Petersburg to visit the Piskarev Memorial Cemetery, the Siege Museum, Cruiser Aurora (now a floating museum) as well as the Peter and Paul Fortress. Overnight in St Petersburg in Novotel or similar.

### **Friday 4th May 2018 St. Petersburg to Volgograd**

Morning visit to Nevsky Bridgehead. En route to the airport also visit the broken siege memorial. Fly from St Petersburg to Volgograd. Once in Volgograd, transfer to hotel. Overnight in Park Inn Hotel in Volgograd or similar.

### **Saturday 5th May 2018 Volgograd**

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 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 Second World War. A full days sightseeing city tour of the "Hero-city Volgograd". This includes the main war memorial of Mamayev Kurgan. Also visit Museum Memory – the final headquarter of the 6th German Army and the place where general-field Marshall Friedrich Paulus surrendered in the basement of central department store – Univermag. Visit the Grain Elevator, a particularly well-defended Soviet strong point. It was a strategically important, imposing building in the southern part of Stalingrad and became a graveyard for hundreds of soldiers on both sides in September 1942 when the Germans tried to take it and in January 1943 when the Russians retook it. Finally visit the panoramic-museum - one of the biggest WWII museums in the world with hundreds of unique exhibits. Overnight in Park Inn Hotel in Volgograd or similar.

### **Sunday 6th May 2018 Volgograd**

Tour to the northern part of Volgograd with visit the factory area: the Red October factory, the Barrikady gun factory and the Tractor Plant. The final German attack in this area was followed by the Russian counter-attack in November 1942. On the main square of the Tractor factory see the monument to the founder NKVD Felix Dzerzhinsky and also the last legendary T-34 tank that was manufactured there. Near the Red October Factory see the defense line which is marked with 19 tank turrets in the city. This gives a clear indication how close the Germans were to the Volga. Visit Lyudnikov's Island, a small piece of land held by Lyudnikov's 138th Rifle Division in November 1942. The division within was surrounded for 40 days by the enemy from three sides and from the fourth side by Volga river. The ruins of the divisional command post still remain behind the Barrikady Gun factory. Visit to Rossoshka reconciliation ensemble, impressive memorial of the two former enemies with Soviet and German military cemeteries. En route visit the Gumrak railway station. Then visit Soldiers' Field on the outskirts of the city. The field gives a perfect view of the city defense line. The main composition of the memorial is a bronze sculpture of a girl whose remains were found in mine field. It is a symbol of the last explosion of the second world war. On the way back to Volgograd you can visit of the Gorodishche settlement and it's church where the Germans had a field hospital. Finally an hour long boat trip on the Volga river - the longest and widest river

in Europe. You will see the panorama of the city from the Volga. Overnight in Park Inn Hotel in Volgograd or similar.

#### **Monday 7th May 2018 Volgograd**

Visit Kalach-on-Don – the city of military Glory, 80 km from Volgograd, where greatest encirclement of the German troops was completed on 23rd November 1942. The tour includes visiting the battlefields outside the city and will be finished on the Don Heights near memorial tank Josef Stalin. During this day you will go through all three defence lines and visit: Peschanka settlement with its defensive line and Austrian memorial, the site of concentration camp #205 which was the biggest of the 47 camps in the Stalingrad area, the middle defensive perimeter on the Karpovka River, the Marinovka settlement. The nose of Marinovka was supposed to be the meeting point for Manstein and Paulus in December of 1942, the bridge over the Don River, the latter being an outer defensive perimeter, “Meeting of two fronts” memorial that completed the encirclement of the German army on 23rd November 1942, and Memorial tank Josef Stalin 2 on the Don Heights. It was put here by the Soviet veterans in memory of their fallen comrades. A short distance away is the village of Golubinskaya. There is a wooden house in the original condition before the assault on Stalingrad and was the HQ of the 6th German Army, and later the HQ of the 21st Soviet army. During this day it is also possible to visit the site of the German airfield in Pitomnik. Overnight in Park Inn Hotel in Volgograd or similar.

#### **Tuesday 8th May 2018 Volgograd to Moscow**

Train from Volgograd to Moscow in first class lower sleeper berths.. Overnight Petr 1 Hotel or similar.

#### **Wednesday 9th May 2018 Moscow**

The 9th May is Victory Day, commemorating all those who fell during World War two and Moscow sees the countries largest parade. The atmosphere is exciting although it makes Moscow's already infamous traffic even harder to navigate. As well as experiencing Victory day we will try and find time to visit Borodino battle museum as well as the hill of glory and the adjacent WWII museum. There will be fireworks at night Overnight Petr 1 hotel or similar.

#### **Thursday 10th May 2018 Moscow**

Today continue exploring military history sites in and around the city including the Aviation Museum in Monino, the largest in Russia; Star city; Secured Command Post “Tagansky” 200 feet below Moscow, a relic of Cold War days. Overnight in Petr 1 hotel or similar.

#### **Friday 11th May 2018** Tour ends in Moscow. Morning transfer to airport for flights home.

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



*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.*

**Tour cost based on twin share \$4,950.00 per person.  
Single occupancy of hotel rooms \$800.00  
Based on minimum of 6 participants.**

Includes all hotel accommodations; breakfast daily; welcome and farewell dinners; airport/hotel round trip transfers; all ground transportation and sightseeing by private coach; 1<sup>st</sup> class train from Volgograd to Moscow (twin share only) in sleeper compartments; economy class 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 6 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, and tips to local guides or drivers.

*“...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*

*Artillery museum  
in St. Petersburg  
and Yuri Gargarin  
Cosmonaut Training  
Center*

