

The following is included in the price of this remarkable and fully escorted tour which is led by our Chairman, Philip Birkenstein.

- Six nights' accommodation in a double/twin room at the Astoria Hotel.
- All meals (except one lunch and one dinner) in some of St Petersburg's most interesting restaurants. One lunch is excluded as we do not wish to leave the Hermitage but there are plenty of cafes within. The dinner is a free evening for you to choose your restaurant, but naturally we will help you to select if you wish. Alcoholic drinks are not included.
- Return direct British Airways flights from London Heathrow to Pulkova Airport (economy).
- Visa supporting documentation.
- Our superb guide, whose knowledge of St Petersburg and its history is second to none, will accompany the group.



For Further information and a booking form please contact:
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St Petersburg Collection

CREATIONS BY

THEO FABERGÉ

TOUR 2017

Saturday 22 July to Friday 28 July 2017



**Celebrating the 300th Anniversary
of the Gift of the Amber Room
by Frederick William 1
to Peter the Great**

Dear Collector

Our tour this year is in celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the gift of the Amber Room by Frederick William 1 to Peter the Great in 1716.

The original Amber Room, situated in Catherine's Palace, in Tsarskoye Selo was considered by some to be the eighth wonder of the World. It took some 450kg of amber to complete the room as well as gold and gems. It covered an area of more 55 square metres.

The Amber Room was dismantled by the Nazis at the end of the Second World War and was thought to have been lost or destroyed. Recent news reports suggest that it may be hidden in Poland, but this is yet to be verified.

The current Amber Room was recreated in 1982 using original drawings and old black and white photos. It took over 20 years to complete and cost over \$12 million. It was opened in 2003 by Vladimir Putin and Chancellor Gerhard Schoeder.

Come and visit the Amber Room with St Petersburg Collection and enjoy for yourself this priceless piece of art that contains architectural features such as gilding, amber panels and mirrors.

Naturally we will also visit other tourist attractions – see page opposite for some of the highlights that may be included, as well as some surprises for which St Petersburg Collection is renowned.

This adventure comes with great care and attention to detail, to make your experience very unique and memorable. You will be VIP guests on our tour and that means no queuing !

We look forward to you and your family/friends joining us on our 2017 Tour.

Best wishes

Philip Birkenstein
Chairman

The highlights of the Tour include – but this is not a full list –

Our stay will be at the elegant Hotel Astoria newly refurbished and overlooking the gold dome of St Isaac's Cathedral. Built in 1911, the Astoria accommodation includes all the comforts of a 5-star hotel and is the Hotel used by Prime Minister Putin's guests.

- ★ We will visit the Peterhof Palaces and Parks. The magnificent summer residence of the Imperial Family is famous for its cascades and fountains, and some of the palaces will be opened that day solely for our guests (normally there are over 10,000 visitors in one day!) We will be shown rooms not normally on public display.
- ★ At the State Hermitage Museum, containing some of the finest works of art and treasures in the world, we will be greeted by one of the Hermitage's leading Directors and we do not queue to enter!
- ★ A river and canal cruise will take us around St Petersburg. With the sun shining, this can be the best way to view the superb architecture of the city.
- ★ The Director will be your host when you visit the Palaces and Gardens of Tsarskoye Selo including Catherine's Palace with its famous Amber Room, and Alexander Palace. You are promised a very special programme!
- ★ A surprise Black Tie Dinner in a unique setting.
- ★ A visit to the Peter and Paul Fortress – the burial place of the Tsars. We tour the island and its many historical sights.
- ★ The fabulous mosaic interior of St Isaac's Cathedral will be included in a tour of the city of St Petersburg, viewing the historic and architectural sights.
- ★ An evening at the ballet at one of St Petersburg's famous theatres.
- ★ By Special Invitation - a visit to Mariinsky Palace, the parliament building for St Petersburg. It is one of the most beautiful Palaces, all in white and gold.
- ★ A visit to the fabulous Fabergé Museum in the Shuvalov Palace