

Dear Philip and St Petersburg Collection,

Thank you for an amazing and unforgettable week in St Petersburg. Although we have previously travelled to St Petersburg, your tour was very special and elevated both our knowledge and love for St Petersburg and Russian, art, history and culture.

You provided priority access to museums and palaces, in many cases ahead of queues stretching hundreds of meters; guided tours by museum Directors; special permission to remain inside palaces longer than usually permitted to savour the experience; access to areas closed to the public for in-depth cultural exposure and, in true Fabergé fashion, a few surprises along the way! In particular, the outstanding and knowledgeable local guides, in combination with the special relationships evident between St Petersburg institutions and St Petersburg Collection, provided us with a unique opportunity. This was not just a tour of St Petersburg, but a very special and never to be repeated experience.

Particular highlights were attendance at the press conference for presentation of the St Petersburg Collection by Theo Fabergé Amber Egg, held in the Catherine Palace at Tsarskoye Selo, for which the palace was closed enabling us to walk casually through the palace rooms alone. This was a very surreal experience noting that the palace normally receives 15,000 visitors a day!



Another unforgettable highlight was the black-tie gala dinner at a surprise location which turned out to be a restored pavilion on a lake island within the grounds of Catherine Palace. The final highlight was a tour of the beautiful Mariinsky Palace which is never open to the public as it now houses the St Petersburg Parliament.

What also made the tour special was the camaraderie within the tour group and the friendships struck as we enjoyed the experience together. We will be recommending the St Petersburg Collection tour to friends interested in visiting Russia noting that future tours will include different surprises and a new and unique experience. As such, we also very much look forward to travelling again with Philip and St Petersburg Collection in the future!

Regards,

Graeme & Walter
(Australia)