

# 9th Pilgrimage to Holy Places of Russia 2017

Moscow-Meschovsk-Optina Hermitage-Ryazan - Vyshna Hermitage-Biisk-Diveyevo-Murom-Pereyaslav-Zalesskiy- Godenovo- Sergiev Posad-Khotkovo-Simferopol-Bakhchisarai-Sebastopol-Khersones-Yalta-Alupka-Moscow  
(18 days/17 nights)

## **1st Day - Sat., 8 July - Moscow**

Arrival in Moscow at Sheremetiev airport, 12:00-16:00, transfer to Pokrov Convent hotel or Golden Apple. Assembly of members of pilgrimage group at 13:00 at hotel of the Pokrov Convent (those who had arrived some days earlier).

**14:00 - Lunch.** Settling into rooms.

Evening tour of Moscow. Veneration of relics. Vysoko-Petrovsky Monastery, one of the oldest monasteries of Moscow. On its territory we will visit the new cathedral of the New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, "On the Blood." History of the founding of the monastery, its churches, history of the Russian State.

**Supper.**

## **2nd Day - Sunday, 9 July - Moscow, Meschovsk, Optina Hermitage**

**Breakfast\*.** Feast of the Tikhvin icon of the Mother of God. Divine Liturgy in the Pokrov Convent, veneration of the holy relics of St. Matrona of Moscow.

**Departure for the Optina Hermitage.**

**On the way there, a visit to Meschovsk** - a town of tsaritsas and tsarinas (princesses). Relics of St. George (Lavrov) the Confessor and miraculous icons.

**Lunch.**

**Arrival at Optina Hermitage.** Visit to its spring. **Hotel "Kars."**

**Supper.** Distance from Moscow to Meschovsk - approx. 240 kilometres. From Meschovsk to Optina Hermitage - approx. 57 kilometres.

## **3rd Day - Mon., 10 July - Optina Hermitage, Ryazan**

**Day of the commemoration of the holy relics of St. Ambrose of Optina.** Divine Liturgy.

History of the Vvedensky stavropegial Monastery. Veneration of the relics of the holy elders and wonderworkers of Optina. Visit to the St. John the Baptist Skete. A history of elders (startsy) in Russia.

**Lunch. Departure for the city of Ryazan. Arrival in Ryazan.** Supper. Accommodations in the "Forum" Hotel of Ryazan. Rest.

The distance from Optina Hermitage to Ryazan is 360 kilometres.

## **4th Day - Tues., 11 July - Ryazan, Vysha, Diveyevo**

Breakfast. Vacating of hotel rooms. Excursion through the city of Ryazan. Its Kremlin. History of the city and its holy sites. Blessed Lubov ("Lubushka") of Ryazan. Cathedral of Christ's Nativity. Meeting the clergy of the city.

**Departure of the group for the town of Vysha.** Visit to the Holy Dormition Vysha Monastery. The Vysha Hermitage and the relics of St. Theophan the Recluse. Prayer service before the relics.

**Lunch.** History of the monastery.

**Visit to Emmanuilovka.**

**Departure for Diveyevo. Supper.**

**Arrival in Diveyevo.** Accommodations in the "Diveyevo Sloboda" Hotel. Rest.

The distance from Ryazan to Vysha is approx. 190 kilometres; from Vysha to Diveyevo - approx. 220 kilometres.

### **5th Day - Wed., 12 July - Diveyevo**

**Commemoration of Sts. Peter and Paul.** Breakfast.\*

Divine Liturgy in Diveyevo Convent.

Excursion to convent churches. Holy Trinity Cathedral. The holy springs dedicated to the Kazan icon of the Mother of God and to the "Compunction" icon; holy great martyr Panteleimon the Healer.

**Lunch in the skete.**

Holy relics in the convent: relics of the three Diveyevo fools for Christ: Saints Pelagia, Paraskeva and Maria.

Relics of the holy women of Diveyevo: Alexandra, Martha and Helen.

Evening service. Procession with the sisters along the "Kanavka" of the Mother of God.

**Supper.** Rest in "Diveyevo Sloboda" Hotel.

### **6th Day - Thurs., 13 July - Diveyevo**

07:00-Akathist in the Holy Trinity Cathedral at the relics of St. Seraphim of Sarov. Veneration of the relics.

**Breakfast.\***

Divine Liturgy. Visit to the "near" springs of Kazan, Iveron and Matushka Alexandra.

**Lunch.**

**Diveyevo Sloboda.** Visit to the "far" spring of St. Seraphim of Sarov in Tsiganovka.

**Supper.** Procession with the sister along the "Kanavka" of the Mother of God.

**Rest** in the "Diveyevo Sloboda."

### **7th Day - Fri., 14 July - Diveyevo, Murom, Moscow**

07:00 - Akathist in the Holy Trinity Cathedral at the relics of St. Seraphim of Sarov, veneration of the relics.

**Breakfast.\*** **Departure for Murom.**

In Murom we will visit: Holy Transfiguration men's monastery and the holy things of the monastery. The Holy Trinity Convent. The relics of the right-believing Prince Peter and Princess Febronia, Wonderworkers of Murom. The Holy Annunciation men's monastery. Relics of the holy right-believing Princes Constantine, Michael and Theodore; the miracle-working icon of the Iveron icon of the Mother of God. The church of St. Nicholas-on-the-Embankment.

**Lunch.**

**Departure for Moscow. Supper. Accommodations at the Pokrov Convent Hotel or the Golden Apple.**

Rest.

The distance from Diveyevo to Murom is approx. 140 kilometres. From Murom to Moscow approximately 330 kilometres.

### **8th Day - Sat., 15 July - Moscow**

**Breakfast.**

**Moscow Kremlin.** Visit to the Dormition (Uspensky) and Archangel cathedrals. The history of the Kremlin, the Tsar-pushka cannon, the Tsar-bell, the belfry of Ivan the Great. The Patriarchal quarters (the history of the placing of the honourable garment of our Lord Jesus Christ in Moscow, in the historical site of the Russian first hierarchs).

**The Armory. The Diamond Fund.** The Saviour's Tower.

**Lunch.**

Internal view of the Cathedral of the Protection of the Mother of God (generally known as St. Basil's Church).

**The Red Square:** Theophany (Bogoyavlensky) cathedral; the Kazan cathedral; Iveron chapel, where we can serve a moleben. The Alexandrovsky garden.

Christ the Saviour Cathedral.

Visit to the Conception (Zachatievsky) Convent - the wondrous restoration from oblivion of a women's monastery in Moscow.

Transfer to the hotel. **Supper** and rest.

## **9th Day - Sun., 16 July - Moscow**

### **Breakfast.\***

**Divine Liturgy.** The feast of the translation of the holy relics of **St. Philip, the Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia, the Wonderworker.**

**The Tretyakov Gallery.** Veneration of its holy icons - the Vladimir icon of the Mother of God and St. Andrei Rublev's Holy Trinity icon. Excursion to the museum expositions.

**Sts. Martha and Mary Convent.** The history of the convent's founding, its charitable works of mercy, its past and present. The museum of the nun-martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna.

### **Lunch.**

**The history of Moscow in its churches and monasteries.**

The Novospassky Monastery, the Danilov Monastery.

**The Donskoy Monastery.** Visit to the museum of Patriarch Tikhon. Memorial service at the grave of Anton Ivanovich Denikin, the Chief Commander of Russia (this general's grave is located in the necropolis of the Donskoy Monastery).

**Departure** of the group for the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra. Along the way, stops at the village of Radonezh and at the monastery in the town of Khotkovo.

**The Radonezh metochion** of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra. St. Sergius lived in the village of Radonezh during his youth.

**The Protection stavropegial Convent in Khotkovo.** From olden times the monastery in Khotkovo is connected with the parents of St. Sergius, Sts. Cyril and Maria. Their relics have been in the Protection cathedral of the convent since 1337 and only during the closing of the monastery were their relics buried next to the church. Pilgrims come here to pray with faith to the saints, asking their help in all their needs.

**Supper.** Accommodations in the "Central" Hotel of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra. Rest.

The distance from Moscow to Sergiev Posad is approximately 70 kilometres.

## **10th Day - Mon., 17 July - Pereyasavl-Zalessky, Godenovo**

**Commemoration of the holy Passion-bearers Tsar-martyr Nicholas, Tsaritsa Alexander, Tsarevich Alexis, Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia.**

**Divine Liturgy. Breakfast.**

**Departure for Pereyasavl-Zalessky.** Arrival. History of the city. Regarding St. Alexander Nevsky: "For the ancient Russian city of Pereyasavl-Zalessky the epoch of Alexander Nevsky was a time of glory and most lofty growth."

### **Lunch.**

**We will visit:**

**The Goretsky men's Monastery.** The Goretsky Dormition men's Monastery was founded in the first half of the XIV century, during the time of Ivan Kalita. The monastery received its name "Goretsky" from its location on a hill - "gora" in Russian means *hill* or *mountain*. The monastery has a portion of the holy relics of St. Alexander Nevsky.

**The St. Nikita men's Monastery.** This monastery became widely known since the time when St. Nikita the Wonderworker became famous for his ascetical life here. This faithful servant of the Lord was blessed with incorrupt relics, which were discovered in the 15th century and rested beneath the monastery church. The monastery also has relics and chains of St. Nikita the Stylite and the relics of St. Cornelius of Pereyasavl.

### **Plescheyevo Lake.**

**St. Nicholas Convent.** This convent was founded as a men's monastery in 1354 by St. Demetrius of Prilutsk. The convent has relics of St. Cornelius the Silent, the holy right-believing Andrew of Smolensk, an icon with relics of St. John the Russian and an icon with relics of St. Lazarus of the Four Days.

**Departure for the village of Godenovo.** This Life-giving Cross of the Lord - one of the greatest relics of Orthodox Russia - found its home in the Church of St. John Chrysostom in the village of Godenovo, near the town of Pereyasavl-Zalessky. The church is part of the metochion of St. Nicholas Convent and for many years

its sisters have recorded the history of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord, which appeared in 1423 to shepherds at the Sakhotsk swamp. **Moleben - prayer service.**

### **Departure for Sergiev Posad.**

On the way, a visit to the **St. Nicholas-Solbinsky Convent.** The restoration of this convent with its church and land goes back to the 20th century. It became a haven for many novices and women who, maintaining their professional experience and knowledge, carry obediences in the convent, such as doctors, librarians, scientists, linguists, philologists and other specialties.

**Supper.** Rest at the "Central" Hotel in Sergiev Posad.

The distance between Sergiev Posad and Pereyasavl-Zalesky is approximately 72 kilometres.

From Pereyasavl-Zalesky to Godenovo - approx. 64 kilometres.

From Godenovo to St. Nicholas-Solbinsky Convent - approx. 97 kilometres.

From St. Nicholas-Solbinsky Convent to Sergiev Posad - approx. 94 kilometres.

## **11th Day - Tues., 18 July - Sergiev Posad**

### **Breakfast.\***

### **Feastday of the finding of the holy relics of St. Sergius of Radonezh.**

**Divine Liturgy.** Veneration of the relics of St. Sergius of Radonezh and the Radonezh saints in the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra. Holy Spirit Church, the Church of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the Nadkladennaya Chapel.

**The Serapion building.** This building goes back to the 16th century. It was built on the site of the cell of St. Sergius of Radonezh, where the Mother of God appeared to him in a vision. When one comes here for the first time, one experiences an amazing feeling of proximity to Heaven, something difficult to express in words. It is well known for the fact that the relics of three abbots of the monastery rest here - those of St. Ioasaph, Metropolitan of Moscow, St. Dionysius of Radonezh and St. Serapion, Archbishop of Novgorod. A significant portion of the Sash of the Mother of God is here, as well as the relics of many saints.

### **Churches of the Lavra:**

**The Cathedral of the Dormition of the Mother of God.** The cathedral was built at the command of Tsar Ivan the Terrible in the course of the years 1559 to 1585. In its architecture the five-domed Dormition cathedral resembles its model, the Dormition cathedral in the Moscow Kremlin, superseding it in size. This is the largest church in the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra, but by its position its magnificence does not diminish the other churches, more ancient and smaller in size.

### **Lunch.**

### **Pilgrimage to the sketes of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra:**

*Gethsemane-Chernigov Skete.* Founded in 1844 by the acting abbot of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra St. Anthony (Medvedev) with the active participation of St. Philaret (Drozdov). In 1847 the Blessed schemamonk Philip founded the Cave section at the skete.

*The Paraclete Skete.* This hermitage was founded on the site of the ancient St. Nicholas Monastery. The land for the new skete was granted to the Lavra by Emperor Alexander II on the occasion of the birth in 1857 of Prince Sergei Alexandrovich.

*The Saviour-Bethany Monastery,* a metochion of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra. This monastery became a memorial to the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus. This location, which later became known as Bethany and previously bore the name Korbukha, began to be developed by the Rector of the seminary of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra, the Metropolitan of Moscow Platon (Levshin). In 1783-97 it became a skete of the Lavra. The new skete received the name "Bethany" from the section of the Transfiguration cathedral dedicated to Lazarus, who was raised from the dead in Bethany of Palestine.

**Supper.** Rest in the "Central" Hotel of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra.

### **12th Day - Wed., 19 July - Moscow, Simferopol (Crimea)**

#### **Breakfast.**

Departure of the group from the hotel in Moscow. Transfer to and arrival at the airport for flight to Simferopol. Arrival in Simferopol. Transfer and accommodation at the "Ukraine" Hotel in Simferopol.

**Lunch.** The program begins with the history of the city and excursion. Visit to the Holy Trinity Convent and veneration of the relics of St. Luke (Voino-Yasenetsky). Prayer service.

### **13th Day - Thurs., 20 July. - Crimea, Bakhchisarai**

#### **Breakfast.**

#### **Meeting of the group with the clergy of the Diocese of Simferopol and the Crimea.**

Departure of our group from Simferopol. History of the Crimea. Mountain region of Crimea. Bakhchisarai.

#### **Lunch.**

Arrival in the city of Bakhchisarai. History of the city.

**The Holy Dormition Cave Monastery.** The monastery was founded in the 8th century. From the 15th century it was the residence of the metropolitans of the Goths. The revival of the monastery is connected with the annexation of the Crimea to Russia in the 18th century. The active construction of the monastery began at the end of the 19th century. At the present time it is the most populated monastery in the Crimea. The most sacred item in the monastery is the icon of the Dormition of the Mother of God. There are many wonderworking icons in the monastery, brought from the Kiev-Caves Lavra, Greece and the Holy Land.

Continuation of the trip. Arrival at the "Bristol" Hotel in Yalta and settling into rooms.

#### **Supper. Rest.**

The distance from Simferopol to Bakhchisarai is 33 kilometres.

### **14th Day - Fri., 21 July. - Crimea, Sebastopol**

#### **Breakfast.**

**Trip to Sebastopol.** History of the city. The Count's Harbor. "The Heroic Defence of the City." "The Crimean War." History of the departure of the Russian Volunteer Army of General Wrangel from the city of Sebastopol.

Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral. The memorial-church dedicated to St. Nicholas of the Sea. Protection cathedral.

**Inkerman.** Visit to the Inkerman St. Clement Cave Monastery, once of the oldest cave monasteries in Crimea. The cave complex is comprised of three churches (or one church with three sections, dedicated to Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called, St. Clement of Rome, St. Martin of Rome) and the attached cells, burial chambers, ancient refectories, as well as stairwell tunnels and passages. The passageways connect the caves with the monastery terrace and plateau located over the brink.

Relics at the monastery: among the holy relics of the monastery is a portion of one of the myrrh-streaming heads, brought in the 1990s from the Kiev-Caves Monastery and attributed to St. Clement of Rome by the local (Inkerman) tradition.

#### **Lunch.**

**Khersones.** History of the city. Place of the baptism of Prince Vladimir. St. Vladimir's cathedral. Prayer service.

The group heads for the Bristol Hotel in Yalta. Along the way we stop at Faros. Visit to the Church of the Lord's Resurrection.

#### **Supper. Rest.**

### **15th Day - Sat., 22 July - Crimea [Free day]**

**Breakfast. Lunch.** This is a free day of rest on the sea. We continue staying at the Bristol Hotel.

#### **Supper.**

### **16th Day - Sun., 23 July - Crimea, Yalta**

#### **Breakfast.\***

**Divine Liturgy.**

**Lunch.**

**History of the Royal Family. The Livadia Palace.**

Without exaggeration, the *Livadia Palace* can be called an architectural work of art. The snow-white residence was built at the beginning of the 20th century for the Royal Romanov Family and has been preserved in good condition to this day. Located in a beautiful setting, on a hill and surrounded by woods, with a view of the sea going back to the horizon, the Livadia Palace yearly attracted a large number of tourists. The Palace complex, which is located approximately 5 kilometres from Yalta, is known not only for its beauty and magnificence, but also for the importance historical events which took place here.

Excursion through the city. History of the city. The St. Alexander Nevsky cathedral church..

**Return to the Bristol Hotel.**

**Supper and rest.**

**17th Day - Mon., 24 July - Crimea, Alupka**

**Breakfast.**

**Departure of the pilgrimage group.**

**Vorontsov Palace** (the Alupka Palace and Park Museum). The Vorontsov Palace was erected in the first half of the 19th century in Alupka, at the foot of the Ai-Petru Mountain. The first owner of this magnificent palace was Count Mikhail Vorontsov. The building commenced in 1820 and was completed in 18 years. The palace was built in Neo-Gothic style, while the northern facade of the central building and the northern section of the palace are in the Tudor style. The southern facade crowns the "Lions Terrace", a monumental staircase with three pairs of white marble lions. The palace is now a museum.

Excursion through the Alupka palace. A unique monument.

**Lunch.**

**Return to the Bristol Hotel in Yalta.**

**Rest on the sea. Supper.**

**18th Day - Tues., 25 July - Crimea, Moscow**

**Breakfast.**

Transfer to the airport.

Arrival in Moscow. Completion of the pilgrimage journey.

Return home.

### **Attention:**

\* Days are indicated on which breakfast is offered for those who are not receiving Communion.

**The cost of the Pilgrimage (excluding airfare to Moscow and home) - US \$2800.00 per person.**

**Please note:** The information concerning your air flight and arrival at the airport in Moscow needs to be sent ahead of time. The time of arrival and gathering of the group has been indicated as 12:00 to 16:00. Following this, the group will be transferred to the hotel for settling into rooms, supper, rest and the commencement of the program. Those who have arrived earlier (on the eve or a few days earlier) are asked to arrive at the hotel of the Pokrov (Protection) Convent on their own (address of the hotel in Moscow: Taganskaya Street, 58) by 13:00. Lunch is scheduled for 14:00.

**For further information concerning the Pilgrimage, which will be headed by His**

**Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America & New York, please contact Galina Konstantinovna Sologub, the organizer of these pilgrimages for many years, at:**

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