

10th Pilgrimage to Holy Places of Russia 2018

on the 100th anniversary of the slaying of the Royal Family

Brothers and Sisters, our pilgrimage will commence at the tragic sites of Ekaterinburg, Ganina Yama and Alapayevsk, where the Tsar's Family, the new martyrs of Russia, were slain. The pilgrimage will continue to the place where the great royal Romanov dynasty began. We hope that, through the prayers of the New Martyrs of Russia and God's mercy, Russian history will enter into a natural phase and we will overcome the tragic events of the past hundred years.

Ekaterinburg-Alapaevsk-Ganina Yama-Solovki -Archangelsk-Yaroslavl
-Kostroma-Tutaev-Moscow-Uglich- Goritsy- Kizhi-Mandrogi-Svirstroi-Valaam
-St. Petersburg-Vyritsa

1st Day - Fri., 15 June – Moscow (Airport Seremetyevo)

The pilgrimage begins in Moscow. Arriving members of the pilgrimage group will be met throughout the day. And Transfer to the hotel near Airport Sheremetyevo. Due to earliest departure to the **Yekaterinburg**.

After arriving to Hotel. Settling into rooms. Free day. Supper. Rest time. 20.00 PM meeting of our group in the lobby of the hotel.

2nd Day - Saturday, 16 June - Alapaevsk

Breakfast.* Pilgrimage to the town of Alapaevsk (170 kilometres). Visit to the holy places connected with the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. Monastery of the New Martyr Elizabeth Feodorovna. **Lunch.** The museum in the school where St. Elizabeth was detained before her martyrdom. The burial place where the body of St. Elizabeth remained for a period of time. **St. Catherine church**, where the funeral for the Romanov grand dukes (martyred with the Grand Duchess) was held. The miraculous "Quick to Hear" icon of the Mother of God. St. Timothy's spring. **Holy Trinity cathedral.** Return to Ekaterinburg. **Supper.** Rest.

3rd Day - Sun., 17 June - Ekaterinburg, Ganina Yama (Garin mine shaft)

Breakfast. Transfer from Ekaterinburg to **Ganina Yama**. Divine Liturgy. Visit to the holy sites. *Ganina Yama was the site on the outskirts of Ekaterinburg, where the remains of the Tsar's Family were to be buried, executed by the Bolsheviks in the basement of the Ipatiev house.* The history of the Royal Family. Veneration of various sacred items. **The monastery of the Holy Royal Passion-bearers at the Ganina Yama.** A reliquary cross which belonged to the Romanov house. A veneration cross. **Lunch.**

The monastery of the Holy Royal Passion-bearers in the woods of Ganina Yama is one of the newest monastic houses in Russia. It was established upon the site of one of the most dramatic events which put an end to the earthly lives of the last Royal Family. It was namely here in July of 1918 that the bodies of the Royal Family, as well as their faithful servants, were brought from the Ipatiev house in Ekaterinburg to be destroyed.

Return to Ekaterinburg. Various monasteries and church, the history of the city. Excursion through the city of Ekaterinburg. **The Church-on-the-Blood** (on the site of the Ipatiev house). *The church was built in 2000-2003 on the site where, during the night from the 16th to the 17th of July, 1918, the last Emperor of Russia Nicholas II and his Family were executed. At the present time the church is a place of pilgrimage for the faithful not only from all corners of Russia, but also from countries abroad.* **Prayer service (moleben).**

The **St. Alexander Nevsky New-Tikhvin Convent** - *an Orthodox women's monastery in Ekaterinburg, one of the largest in Russia. The main church, the cathedral dedicated to St. Alexander Nevsky, is a monument of late classic architecture. The history of the monastery goes back to the 18th century, when a house of mercy was established at the cemetery Dormition church. In 1809 the community of women who labored in the house of mercy was transformed into a coenobitic monastery for women.*

Chapel dedicated to Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna. Return to the Ekaterinburg Hotel. **Supper.** Rest.

4th Day - Monday, 18 June - Ekaterinburg, Solovki

Breakfast will be taken during travel. Transfer to the airport. Flight to Solovki, with change overs. Arrival in Solovki. **Lunch.** Excursion through the monastery.

The Solovetsky Transfiguration of the Saviour Monastery *is one of the most significant and well preserved monuments of Russian architecture. As of 1992, the historical-cultural complex of the Solovki islands, which includes the Solovetsky Monastery, has been included by UNESCO in the List of Monuments of World Heritage.*

The Solovetsky Marine Museum. *In the museum is presented an unique exhibit, dedicated to the naval practices of the Russian North and of the Solovetsky Monastery. The exhibit consists of plans and drawings showing how the Russians went*

about adapting to life in the North; items brought from ethnographic expeditions, as well as items gifted to the museum by local inhabitants. **Supper.** Rest in the **Solovki Hotel.**

5th Day - Tuesday, 19 June - Solovki

Early liturgy. **Breakfast. Sekirnaya gora (Ax Mountain).** This mountain is the highest point on the Greater Solovetsky Island, towering approximately 80 meters.

The Botanical Garden. *Visitors to the botanical garden, or park, are astounded by the wide range of flora that exists here. Hawthorn, St. John's wort, honeysuckle, choke cherry, yellow acacia, badan, apple trees, larch, poplar trees, Siberian cedars, thick lilac bushes, flower gardens - truly plants from Paradise! Among eminent guests who have visited the Solovetsky botanical garden are Patriarch Kirill and Prince Charles of Wales, and each has singlehandedly planted a pine tree in this garden.*

Philip's cages (fish traps). *Fish from the sea were caught for the Solovetsky Monastery in many parts of the Solovki island coasts, but the success of fishing was not always guaranteed. The so-called Philip's cages were set up on the Greater Solovetsky Island in the middle of the 16th century, during the time of Abbot Philip and were named after him.* **Lunch.**

Excursion through the lakes and canals of the largest Solovki island. **Supper.** Rest in Solovki Hotel.

6th Day - Wednesday, 20 June - Solovki

Breakfast. The history of the GULAG (concentration camp) at Solovki. The museum. This museum, which is dedicated to the labor camp period of Solovki, is located in the Solovetsky village in a former barracks for prisoners.

Lunch. Transfer to the airport. Flight to the city of Archangel. Arrival in Archangel. **Supper. Transfer to the train station.** At 20:20 departure for the city Yaroslavl.

7th Day - Thursday, 21 June - Yaroslavl

Breakfast. 11:52 arrival in Yaroslavl.

Dormition Cathedral. *In 1219 builders in Yaroslavl created a wonder for the entire world in the creation of a church of previously unseen beauty. It was erected on the territory of the Yaroslavl kremlin (fort) by the command of the Prince of Rostov, Constantine Vsevolodovich. In the same year Bishop Constantine of Rostov consecrated it in honor of the Dormition of the Most Holy Birthgiver of God. There existed a tradition that the main holy place in Yaroslavl would always be dedicated to the feast of Dormition. Unlike other churches of North-eastern Rus' of that period, which were built of limestone blocks, this church was built with bricks. Limestone was utilized only for embellishment of the decorative facade. The interior floor was laid with majolica tiles, while the doors were decorated with gold.*

St. Elias the Prophet Church, a work of art of ancient Russian architecture of the 17th century.

Settling into the Yaroslavl Hotel. Lunch.

Pilgrimage to the **Tolga Holy Entry women's monastery**. This convent of Yaroslavl, dedicated to the feast of the Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple, has been called from times past a "Pearl" of the Yaroslavl land. Excursion through the monastery. **Supper**. Return to the Yaroslavl Hotel.

8th Day - Friday, 22 June - Kostroma

Breakfast. Departure for Kostroma.

Visit to the **Holy Trinity men's Ipatiev Monastery. The Trinity cathedral and Palace of the Romanov boyars**. The Ipatiev Monastery occupies a special place among a glorious number of well-known monasteries. In the 17th century the Time of Troubles, which threatened to destroy Russian sovereignty, was to find its conclusion in the Ipatiev Monastery. In 1613 the monastery hid within its walls the young Michael Romanov. It was in this holy monastery that the glorious three-century reign of the Romanov Dynasty began. From that time on the monastery was called the "cradle" of the Romanovs. The monastery is located in a picturesque corner of Kostroma, where the Kostroma River flows into the Volga, and which the local population from olden times called the "Arrow". When the monastery appeared, this location received the name, "the Ipatiev (Ipaty) cape."

Lunch in Kostroma.

St. Theodore's cathedral. Visit to the church of the Resurrection-on-the-Debris. Return to Yaroslavl. **Supper**. Transfer to the hotel. **Supper** and rest in Yaroslavl Hotel.

9th Day - Saturday, 23 June - Tutaev

Breakfast. Excursion through the city of Yaroslavl.

Transfer to the town of Tutaev (Romanov-Borisoglebsk). Excursion through the town (left and right banks). The **Cathedral of the Elevation of the Cross** - an ancient church in the town of Romanov and one of the oldest in the diocese, is located on the old town site, next to the manor house of the noble Zatsepny family. It stands on the site of a previous wooden church, built, like the town itself, in 1345 by Prince Roman Vasilievich, son of the reigning Yaroslavl Prince Vasily Davidovich. Even earlier at this site there was a town of the same name and a cathedral church in honor of the Elevation of the Holy Cross.

Lunch. Visit to the Kazan church with a tent-style bell-tower. Town houses and churches. **Supper**.

At 17:00 departure for Moscow. Arrival in Moscow. Settling into the "Pokrovsky" Hotel, opposite to the Protection Monastery, where lie the holy relics of St. Matrona.

10th Day - Sunday, 24 June - Moscow

Early liturgy. **Breakfast*** at 8 am. At 9 am we transfer by bus to the pier. Arrival at 10 am at the river station, where we will begin our travels on the river boat, "Konstantin Simonov." At 12:30 we proceed to the pier and settle into the river boat 2 hours before departure.

Lunch. Free time. The river boat will follow the Moscow Canal. **Supper.**

11th Day - Monday, 25 June - Uglich

Breakfast. Arrival in the city of Uglich. **The river boat will be standing from 11:30 to 14:30.**

Acquaintance with the local landmarks. We will spend time in one of the legendary towns of the upper Volga River, ancient Uglich, founded in the 10th century. At the pier we will be welcomed by a folklore group, after which, to the bell-ringing of the Transfiguration cathedral, we will begin a fascinating excursion.

We will become acquainted with the monuments of the Uglich Kremlin, among which is the famous church of St. Dimitry-on-the-Blood, built on the site of the murder of the youngest son of Ivan the Terrible, the Tsarevich Dimitry.

Excursion through the **Kremlin** by foot. *The Uglich Kremlin is the historic architectural center of the city. It is based on the high right bank of the Volga River, between the small Shelkovka River and the Kamenny Stream, which flow into the Volga and which provide a natural safe haven for the fort (kremlin), along with the moat which runs between the two tributaries.*

The church of Tsarevich Dimitry. *A wooden chapel first appeared on the site of the slaying of Tsarevich Dimitry at the beginning of the 17th century. In 1630 a wooden church was built, while in 1692 a stone church was erected which exists to this day. The church stands on the steep bank of the Volga River in the north-eastern part of the Kremlin. The relatively small building consists of the church, a refectory, porch and a low tent-style bell tower. The church was built in the decorative manner of the end of the 17th century. White trimmings, half columns and cornices stand out on the red brick walls. The southern facade of the church has been well preserved. During the 19th century an addition was constructed on the north side of the building, which does not blend well with the architecture of the original structure.*

The cathedral of the Saviour's Transfiguration. The Theophany monastery. Lunch. Free time. Supper. The river boat enters into the Rybinsk water reservoir.

12th Day - Tuesday, 26 June - Goritsy

Breakfast. Arrival in the village of Goritsy. **The river boat will be standing from 10:00 to 13:00.**

From Goritsy we will depart by bus for the unique provincial town of Kirillov, where, on the banks of the Siver Lake lies one of the most ancient and largest monasteries of the Russian North - the St. Cyril of Belozersk Monastery, founded by a monk from

Moscow, St. Cyril, at the end of the 14th century. Excursion by bus through the **St. Cyril of Belozersk Historico-Architectural and Art Museum and Reserve**.

Included in the composition of the museum are the architectural ensembles of the St. Cyril of Belozersk and Ferapontov Monasteries, and the church of the Holy Prophet Elias in Tsyfino. By the decree in 1997 of the President of the Russian Federation, the St. Cyril of Belozersk Museum-Preserve is included in the State Register for particularly valuable cultural objects which are the heritage of the people of the Russian Federation. Of special value are the Dormition cathedral (1497), the church of the Entry of the Mother of God with the Refectory Hall (1519), the Holy Gates with the church of St. John of the Ladder (16th century), Transfiguration church (16th century), Archangel Gabriel church (16th century), and the cathedral of the Nativity of the Mother of God in the Ferapontov Monastery (1490). On the territory of the Museum the church of the Placing of the Robe (1485) is precisely dated as the most ancient wooden structure in Russia. The museum-preserve is well known for its collection of ancient icons, including icons from the Dormition cathedral. All the icons are maintained in superb condition and can be viewed by visitors in the main exhibit hall of the museum. Here one can see unique collections of ancient Russian painting, embroidering, archeological objects, examples of native art, collections of rare manuscripts.

Return to the river boat. **Lunch**.

Continuation of the trip by river boat. Along the way we will meet the source of the Sheksna River with the famous inundated Nativity church of the former village of Krokhino. Further on - the grand expanse of the White Lake, following it the River Kovzha and, finally, the northern ladder of the Volgo-Balta locks.

A program will be offered on the boat. Supper. Rest. We will greet the morning on the island of Kizhy.

13th Day - Wednesday, 27 June. - Kizhy

Breakfast. Arrival of the river boat at the island of Kizhy. **The boat will be standing from 15:30 to 19:00.**

The island of Kizhy is located in the northern part of Lake Onega. A unique museum of wooden structures, which are included in the register of the UNESCO universal heritage. The famous 22-domed Transfiguration church is the main item in the collection on the Kizhy church yard and is known worldwide. Also included is the 10-domed Protection church and bell tower. The museum contains a wide range of village houses, farming structures, monuments of cultural architecture. Here one can see one of the oldest wooden churches in Russia - the church of the Resurrection of Lazarus, built in the 14th century! Kizhy is also famous for its beautiful environs which are called the "Kizhy Necklace."

Return to the river boat. **Lunch. Free time. An entertainment program is offered on the boat. Supper. Rest.**

14th Day - Thursday, 28 June. - Mandrogi, Svirstroi

Breakfast. Arrival at the village of Mandrogi. **The river boat will be standing from 11:00 to 19:00 (Svirstroi). A "Green stop."**

Mandrogi is a tourist village, where one can acquire souvenirs. Further on we board a bus and travel to Svirstroi, where we will visit the **Presentation Oat women's monastery, in which rest the holy relics of the parents of St. Alexander of Svir, the wonderworker.** *This convent is one of the oldest in the Northwest of Russia, despite the fact that the date of its founding is unknown. The monastery is first mentioned in the life of St. Alexander of Svir. The parents of the saint, Stephen and Vassa, came to live in this monastery in their old age, receiving the great monastic schema with the names of Sergius and Barbara, and were buried in the monastery.*

Later we depart for the **Holy Trinity-St. Alexander of Svir Monastery.** The monastery is well known due to the presence of the relics of St. Alexander of Svir. St. Alexander was canonized just 14 years after his repose, an honor received only by a few Russian saints. After his glorification there were still alive a few eyewitnesses of his righteous labors and some of his disciples. Therefore the Life of St. Alexander of Svir was written with great accuracy. This monastery is highly revered as a holy place.

Lunch. Free time. A program will be offered on the river boat. **Supper.** Rest.

15th Day - Friday, 29 June - Valaam

Breakfast. Arrival at the island of Valaam. The river boat will be standing from 10:00 to 20:30.

The visit to Valaam by cruise boat often leaves the biggest impression on pilgrims. The history of the famous Transfiguration Valaam Monastery encompasses many centuries. Many pilgrims, tourists, lovers of history and nature dream of visiting Valaam. On Valaam we have prepared an extensive excursion program for you, in the course of which you will be in the central part of the monastery and in some of the unique sketes (hermitages), scattered throughout the island. You will enjoy the exquisite views, which have been captured on canvas by many famous artists. At the end of the day, in the good tradition established long ago, the river boat will departure from Valaam to the music of the second part of the 1st symphony "Winter Dreams" of Peter I. Tchaikovsky, who spent time on Valaam and was captivated by its beauty.

Excursion to the **Central part of the Transfiguration Valaam men's monastery.** *According to established tradition, the visit begins from the pier of the Monastery Bay, where ships of the Valaam fleet arrived in the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, and from where there is a grand view of the monastery which lies on a high base.*

From the pier the road leads to the foot of Tabor Mountain, where in the middle of the last century was built a wide stairway of 62 steps rising up the mount. A view of the famous monastery garden, charming one with its subtle beauty, can be seen from the left side of the stairway.

Lunch. Excursion by foot to the Sketes of Valaam. Visit to the Resurrection, Gethsemane and Konev sketes.

The excursion by foot strives to highlight the amazing harmony of the wild, severe Northern nature, as well as acquainting pilgrims with the strictness of the ascetic monastic life. The group will pass through three sketes - the Resurrection, Gethsemane and Konev sketes.

In the region of the internal Abbot's lakes the guests of the island will see a wondrous, hidden corner of Valaam, where once stood a hermitage of a recluse. The surrounding serene beauty creates a calming atmosphere.

The "Sketes of Valaam" excursion concludes on the territory of the monastery farm, which from the previous century continues to supply the monastery with milk products. Explanations will be given concerning the farm and the economic life of the monastery.

Return to the river boat. Supper. Free time.

16th Day - Sun., 23 July - St. Petersburg, Vyritsa

Breakfast. 08:00 - arrival in **St. Petersburg**

08:30 - Bus ride for pilgrimage to **Vyritsa** (75 kilometres)

During the tragic year of 1917, God permitted Russia to experience severe trials... In the words of Tsar Nicholas II, "All around there is treason, cowardice and deceit." During this time many wealthy people from among the nobility, intelligensia and merchants were transferring their monetary assets abroad and leaving Russia, hoping to live through this time of troubles in the emigration.

It was during this time that a well-known merchant of St. Petersburg, Vasily Mikhailovich Muraviev (the worldly name of St. Seraphim of Vyritsa), who traded in furs, made the decision, which was not understood by the majority of his contemporaries - to close down his business. He gave a generous sum of money to each of his workers and the remainder of his wealth he donated to the St. Alexander Nevsky Lavra, the Resurrection Novo-Devichy Convent in St. Petersburg, the Iveron Vyksunsky Convent in the Nizhny Novgorod province (which was founded by his spiritual father, Hieromonk Barnabas, the elder of the Gethsemane Skete of the Holy Trinity-St. Sergius Lavra), and other monasteries.

St. Seraphim of Vyritsa dedicated the remainder of his life to serving God and continued the tradition of St. Seraphim of Sarov by praying on a rock.

Lunch. Return to the river boat. Supper on the boat.

At 20:00 the travel on the river boat ends. Transfer to the St. Petersburg Hotel.

17th Day - Sunday, 1 July - St. Petersburg

Breakfast. The conclusion of the pilgrimage. Transfer to the Pulkovo Airport.

Departure of the pilgrims.

Attention:

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

The cost of the Pilgrimage (excluding airfare to Russia and home) - US \$3,150.00 per person.

Additional charge per person in single room: US \$760.00

Please note: The information concerning your air flight and arrival at the airport in Moscow needs to be sent in advance. The group will be transferred to a hotel for settling into rooms, supper, rest and the commencement of the program.

For further information concerning the Pilgrimage, which, God willing, 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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