



PALACE TOURS

Golden Eagle Luxury Train: Single-Departure Journeys

Arctic Explorer - Quest for the Northern Lights / 11 nights St Petersburg-Moscow

Tour Dates

2016: December 29-January 9
2017: February 11-February 22

Price

Starting from \$11,995



Venture into the Arctic Circle aboard the *Golden Eagle* luxury train as you search for the famed Northern Lights. This is a picturesque and unique adventure that takes you across remote areas, breathtaking scenery, and famous cities such as St Petersburg and Moscow. Once in Kirkenes, Norway you will have the chance to take an evening bus tour in search of the Aurora Borealis.

Traveling through the ever-changing scenery of this unique landscape by luxury rail, you will experience an indulgent, unforgettable, and authentic adventure. The *Golden Eagle* provides three categories of private, en-suite cabins, a Bar Car lounge, and fine dining in the Restaurant Cars.

Spend your days aboard the train in comfort, attending activities such as language lessons and lectures, or mingling with other passengers as you enjoy the music from the resident pianist in the evenings. Experience the famed Northern Lights by luxury rail, an unforgettable experience.

Price Details

Prices in US Dollars

Silver Class (Twin)	Silver Class (Single)	Gold Class (Twin)	Gold Class (Single)	Imperial Class (Twin)	Imperial Class (Single)
\$11,995	\$16,995	\$13,995	\$19,995	\$22,295	On Request

Day 1: St Petersburg

Arrive in St Petersburg and transfer to the luxurious Grand Hotel Europe (or similar) for a two-night stay. This evening you are invited to a champagne drinks reception with the opportunity to meet your fellow travelers before an exclusive welcome dinner. Included with dinner, and all meals during the tour, are specially selected international wines.

If you would like to extend your time in St Petersburg before the tour begins, contact Palace Tours.

Day 2: St Petersburg



St Petersburg is a magnificent city, brimming with ornate palaces, historical monuments, wide boulevards, beautiful bridges and is renowned as the Ballet Capital of the World. During the December trip, St Petersburg will be beautifully decorated in preparation for Rozhdestvo (Russian Christmas) which is celebrated on the 7th January. Today, enjoy a guided tour of Catherine's

Palace in Pushkin and the Hermitage Museum, the former Winter Palace of the Tsars which houses the royal art collection of over three million works. This is one of the world's largest and most impressive art museums. You may also choose to make your evening in St Petersburg extra special by purchasing a ticket for a ballet or opera performance at one of the world-renowned St Petersburg theatres (subject to schedule and availability and must be pre-booked at least six weeks prior to departure).

Day 3: St. Petersburg and the Golden Eagle

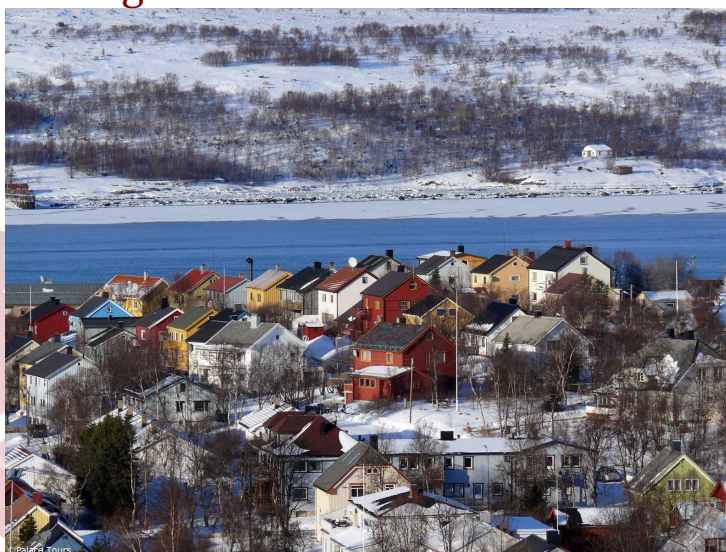
Embark on a tour of St Petersburg that features the city's key sights, including St Isaac's Cathedral and Nevsky Prospect. This afternoon we transfer to the station to board the anticipated Golden Eagle and settle into the modern, stylish cabins to embark upon your quest into the Arctic Circle. On the tour that embarks in December, a special New Year's Eve celebration waits. Take advantage of the unique opportunity to celebrate New Year's Eve on board at our signature Gala Caviar Dinner in the beautifully designed restaurant car, specially decorated tonight for our New Year's Eve Party. Enjoy complimentary champagne, international wines and live musical entertainment for a New Year's Eve you won't forget. The February tour has the signature Gala Caviar Dinner, complementary champagne, international wines with dinner, and live music entertainment as well.

Day 4: On Board (Cross the Artic Circle)

Spend an indulgent New Years' Day on board your luxury train. Relax in the morning with a sumptuous breakfast to unwind after our evening of celebration. Throughout the day, you may reflect on the many sights we are about to experience on our rail journey, listen to a talk or simply enjoy the ever-changing winter landscape outside our window. Today the train crosses the Arctic Circle on our quest to see the Northern Lights.

Day 5: Kirkenes & the Northern Lights

This morning we leave our train with an overnight bag at the Russian border station of Nikel and we transfer by bus (90 minutes drive) across the Russian/Norwegian border to Kirkenes for a two night stay at the Thon Hotel (or similar). We will visit the magical Snow Hotel just 15 km outside Kirkenes. We'll have a welcome drink in the snow bar and a tour of the Snow Hotel with its ice sculptures and snow painting by local and international artists. After a traditional meal including a reindeer hot dog in the snow hotel's warm lodge restaurant we'll take an evening bus tour in search of the Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights). If the sky is clear our guest astronomer will be on hand to advise us during star-gazing and will bring the night sky to life with his extensive knowledge.



Optional Activities in Kirkenes: You may like to book some additional optional activities such as a Snowmobile Safari (2 hours), Snow Shoe Walking Tour (2 hours), take a magical excursion by husky dog sledge (2 hours) or go in search of the Northern Lights by husky dog sledge (4 hours). Each sledge is pulled by a team of eight dogs, and can seat two people and a driver called a dog musher. These activities have limited places and should be requested at the time of booking the tour - please contact Palace Tours for prices.

Day 6: Kirkenes & the Northern Lights

Experience a unique winter adventure this morning when you embark on a King Crab Fishing adventure. To start your day, a snowmobile-drawn sleigh will bring you across the frozen fjords. Warm clothing and a helmet is provided. Your master guide shows you how to catch the magnificent Arctic King Crab through a hole in the ice. These crabs can span two meters and weigh up to 15kgs. Continue by sleigh to the nearby Fisherman's Lodge, where you catch of the day will be prepared and cooked for you. Feast on this delectable and unique meal by a cozy log fire.

In the afternoon you will return to the Snow Hotel to see the resident reindeers and visit the biggest husky dog farm in eastern Finnmark. Or return to Kirkenes Village for a walking tour.

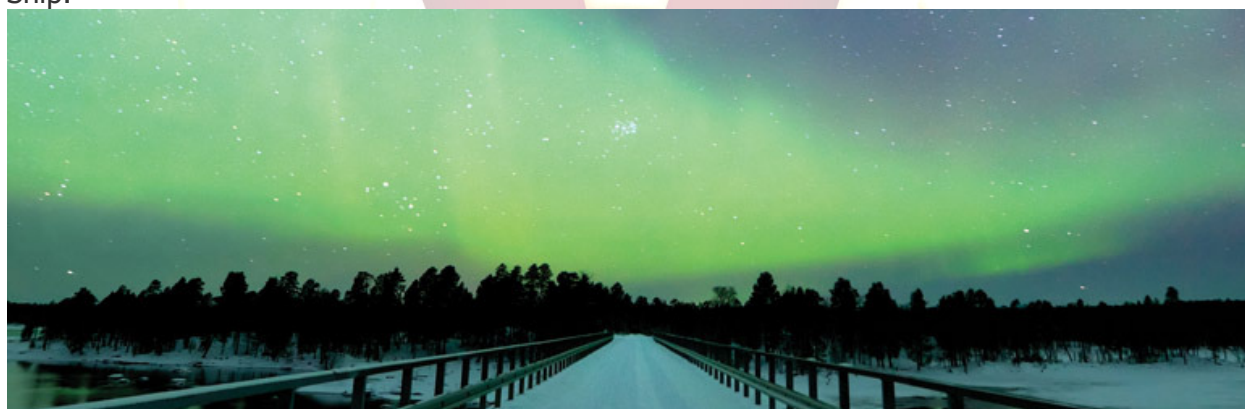
You may also choose to take advantage of your location and spend a night at the famed Snow Hotel. Upgrades are limited, so please book early. Sleep on ice in the Snow Hotel, where it stays around twenty degrees Fahrenheit. Thermal sleeping bags are provided, and showers, toilets, and a Scandinavian sauna are located in a building next door.

Day 7: On Board

Cross the border back into Russia and re-join the train, which is waiting in Nikel. Spend the afternoon on board travelling through arctic Russia and admiring the winter landscapes. Chat with fellow passengers and enjoy afternoon tea with freshly baked Russian cookies in the stylish Bar Lounge Car.

Day 8: Murmansk & Northern Lights

Continue to Murmansk, a city halfway between Moscow and the North Pole, and 120 miles north of the Arctic Circle. As the main city of the Kola Peninsula, it started as a tiny settlement and Arctic trading post. In 1916, under pressure from the British to establish a support port, Murmansk was founded. Thanks to the influence of the Gulf Stream, the port is ice-free year-round. Homeport of Russia's nuclear-powered icebreakers, visit the Nuclear Icebreaker Museum Ship.



Day 9: Petrozavodsk & Kizhi Island

Petrozavodsk stretches along the western shore of Lake Onega - the second largest lake in Europe. This city is one of the major cultural and industrial centers of Northwest Russia and is the capital of the Republic of Karelia. We take a city tour and a hovercraft transfer (weather permitting) to visit Kizhi Island on Lake Onega to explore the open-air museum of wooden architecture. Admire the wooden churches that were built without the use of a single nail and have survived the challenges of Russian winters and revolution.

Day 10: Vladimir & Suzdal

The historic city of Vladimir has roots back to the year 990 and is one of Russia's oldest communities. With a wealth of architectural marvels, it has been decreed a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our tour takes in Uspensky Cathedral, built between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries. It is considered one of the most important and beautiful of Russian cathedrals and is where many prominent Russian Tsars were crowned. Travel onwards to Suzdal, one of Russia's most perfectly preserved walled cities dating back to 1024, located 35 kilometres from Vladimir. Here we, resident monks at the atmospheric St Euthymius Monastery will enchant you with a choral performance. Then, truly complete your Russian winter experience with a horse-drawn

sleigh ride through this stunning location. For the tour departing in December, this day is Russian Christmas and these cities are perhaps the most picturesque places to spend this special day.

Day 11: Moscow



Arrive at Moscow Kazansky station in the morning. Your night in Moscow will be spent at the luxurious, five-star Ritz-Carlton, located at the city center. It is a short walking distance to Red Square, the Kremlin, and the Bolshoi Theatre. Your time at this historic hotel will be well spent, as it provides spacious and luxurious accommodation and the O2 Lounge, a stylish rooftop terrace that features panoramic views over the Red Square and the Kremlin. The hotel also houses a spacious ESPA spa center with a hot tub, indoor pool, and 14 treatment

rooms. With crystal lighting, candles, and beautiful facilities, this spa provides time to indulge in a variety of spa treatments, and the sauna. You will also find a fitness center and beauty salon.

Your tour today visits the Red Square, an iconic symbol of Russia's former military and political might with its eclectic mix of fascinating architecture, such as the ornate St Basil's Cathedral's magnificent onion-domed spires, the beautiful façade of the world famous GUM Department store, constructed in Tsarist times, and the sombre and evocative site of Lenin's tomb. Our touring programme also takes us to the grandeur of the Kremlin - the spiritual, historical and political heart of Moscow and to see the treasures of the Tsars in the Armoury Chamber.

Day 12: Moscow

Breakfast in the hotel brings the tour to a close and airport transfers are provided for your departure flights. If you would like to extend your stay in Moscow, please contact Palace Tours for more information.
