

## Cultural program

An attractive social programme is organised before, during, and after the conference for participants and accompanying persons to experience the attractions of the city and surrounding areas.

<b>Excursion</b>
<b><u>Hermitage</u></b>
<b><u>Boat trip down the Neva river and around the canals</u></b>
<b>Full day tour to <u>Tsarskoe Selo (Royal Village)</u>, including: - guided walking tour around park; - set menu lunch</b>
<b><u>Tour to Novgorod</u>, including: - guided city tour, - St. Yuriev Monastery - the Museum of Wooden Architecture "Vitoslavlitsi" - lunch</b>

Prices and dates are not set yet, but as soon the options will be provided we'll let you now about the possibility of booking the tour.

## Pushkin



This "town of Muses" inspired many celebrated Russian poets, painters and musicians to create their renowned masterpieces in music and art. In 1752-1756 a remarkable Bolshoy Catherine Palace - the striking example of baroque architecture - was built by architect Rastrelli, and numerous entertainment pavilions were erected in the park, including «Hall on the Island», Sliding Hill, Hermitage and Grotto. The splendor of new architectural ensemble immediately caused everybody's admiration and delight. Tsarskoe Selo became the place for official receptions of Russian nobility and representatives of foreign states, who were visiting Russia with diplomatic missions.

Tsarskoe Selo (Royal Village), located 25 km south of St. Petersburg, first appeared in the 18C as the summer residence of the Russian tsars. In 1918 the town was renamed into Detskoe Selo (Children's Village). In 1937 the name was changed into Pushkin, to commemorate the centenary of the great Russian poet's tragic death. Created for two centuries by many prominent architects, the unique architectural ensemble of Pushkin is world famed for its elegant palaces and pavilions, landscape parks and ponds, 18-century marble statues and historic obelisks.





During the reign of Catherine the Great further significant alterations were made to the palace and park. The Catherine Park was extended with the layout of the garden landscaped in the English style. In the palace itself part of baroque interiors with abundance of gilded moldings and sculptures were completely altered by the Scottish architect Charles Cameron in the spirit of increasingly fashionable Classical style. A series of monuments glorifying Russian triumphal victories in the Russo-Turkish and other wars were put up in the newly designed part of the park. Among them are Columns of Chesma and Morea, Kagul Obelisk, all designed by architect Rinaldi, and monumental Tower Ruin designed by architect Velten.

## The State Hermitage



Located in the heart of Saint Petersburg the Hermitage occupies five historic buildings, which are the architecture monuments, including the Winter Palace, former residence of the Russian Tsars. The State Hermitage is one of the oldest and largest museums in the world. State Hermitage (Saint Petersburg) is famous for its numerous collections, which encompass world culture from prehistoric times to the present day. In 240 years of its existence the museum accumulated a collection of almost three million exhibits, including significant art collections of Ancient East, Ancient Greece and Rome, Islamic arts, Italian Renaissance, XIX—XX centuries paintings, etc.

The Hermitage is also home for the art pieces from the Saint Petersburg imperial palaces, collections of Russian Emperors dating to XVIII—XIX centuries, as well as numerous art pieces created on the orders of the Tsars by famous artists of Europe. The Italian collection of the Hermitage includes masterpieces by Giorgione, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael and Titian. A vast collection of French art includes pieces by such artists as Monet, Renoir, Degas, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Picasso and Matisse. The Hermitage Arsenal collection represents many precious items of

Russian, Western European and Oriental arms and armour from the early Middle Ages to the beginning of the 20th century. The Oriental Art collection includes over 180,000 paintings, sculptures and items of applied art, covering the territories of Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Central Asia, Byzantium.



## The boat trip. Rivers and canals

Saint-Petersburg is the city of rivers and canals. Someone calls Saint-Petersburg a North Venice because of its numerous waterways. A boat cruise along the channels and waterways will present you the unique view of the city. You will realize that the city looks completely different when viewed from the water.





Penetrating into the web of city's water veins the boat will take you to the most lonely and quiet parts of Saint Petersburg. Walk on Neva - wonderful travel. You will see prospect of the Petersburg embankments famous architectural ensembles, will pass under figured bridges, which for a long time stay symbols of our city.

## Veliky Novgorod - the true heart of Russia!



Each country has town of particular significance in its history. For Russia, Veliky Novgorod is just such a town - a book celebrating Russia's origins. It was here on the Volkhov river, at its source in the Ilmen Lake, that the political and a cultural centre of the Slav, Finno-Ugrian and Baltic peoples was the first founded. The town played an essential role in the formation of the Russian State and its democratic republican tradition.

First mentioned in 859, Veliky Novgorod is the oldest town in Russia. It is also the only town in Russia that has preserved so many outstanding 10th to 17th centuries historic sites and architectural monuments, recognised as being of tremendous importance for the world. UNESCO has clasified Veliky Novgorod's monuments as part of our World Cultural Heritage. It is perhaps the finest city in which to discover Russia's true history and culture.

