

# Russian Winter Wonder Land

NEW YEAR'S IN ST. PETERSBURG WITH MOSCOW AND SUZDAL



Photo: Douglas Grimes

Moscow State Historical Museum

Nobody loves New Year's Eve like the Russians do — it's the most festive holiday of the year, with parties, presents, and champagne toasts. This celebratory tour revolves around New Year's in glorious St. Petersburg, with Moscow merrymaking and a visit to 12th century Suzdal to round out the festivities.

**Days 1-5: St. Petersburg, New Year's Celebrations** An elegant champagne reception greets you in St. Petersburg. Then for four days, explore this 300-year-old imperial capital envisioned by Peter the Great, visiting Alexander's Palace, the favorite of Nicholas and Alexandra, the Gold and Malachite Rooms at the Winter Palace, majestic St. Isaac's Cathedral, and the Usupoff Palace. Join a backstage tour at one of St. Petersburg's premier theaters before enjoying an evening ballet or opera performance.

Ring in the New Year at a late-night dinner in a Russian home, feasting, raising toasts and singing songs. Or opt to don gown and tux and join the crème de la crème at the glittering Czar's Ball at Catherine's Palace, where tiered crystal chandeliers illuminate the polished parquet floors as an orchestra invites you to waltz. After a day to rest and explore, board the afternoon express train to Moscow.

**Day 6: Moscow** Experience Moscow as few travelers have, at its most graceful and serene, resting beneath a blanket of fresh snow. Visit the splendid Tretyakov Gallery, encompassing Russian art from the 11th century to the present.

**Days 7-10: Vladimir, Suzdal, Moscow** Visit the 12th century Cathedral of the Assumption in Vladimir, where street traffic still passes under the Golden Gate, rebuilt by Catherine the Great. Drive to little Suzdal, once the grand capital of several medieval principalities. Admire its 16th century churches, their vaulted ceilings lit by flickering candles, with the unearthly beauty of Russian hymns filling the air. Return to Moscow for a visit to the ancient Kremlin and the Armory Museum, including an exclusive tour of the Diamond Fund with its crown jewels.

## SMALL GROUP TOUR



### 10 Days

#### Premier Series Land Tour

\$5,495\*\*\* per person, double occupancy  
Single supplement \$995

Comprehensive tour inclusions listed on page 103

\*\*\*Czar's Ball tickets not included, call for prices

**Group Size** 4-16 travelers

#### 2012 Land Tour Dates

December 29, 2012-January 7, 2013

**Stay a little longer...** Extend your stay in St. Petersburg or Moscow. Contact us for details.



Fanfare at Catherine's Palace

## MIR Signature Experiences

- Ring in the New Year at an intimate St. Petersburg party, or choose the lavish Czar's Ball at Catherine's Palace
- Experience an exhilarating horse-drawn sleigh ride
- Tour the Kremlin's Diamond Fund with exclusive access

