

OPTION 1

The Hermitage Museum

10:00	Meeting at the hotel
10:00 – 10:30	Drive to the Hermitage Museum
10:30 – 13:00	Tour of the Hermitage Museum
13:00 – 14:00	Transfer to the airport

No visit to St. Petersburg would be complete without a tour of the world-famous Hermitage Museum – the “Crown Jewel” on the museum list in St. Petersburg. Founded in 1764 as a private museum of Catherine the Great to which only she and her closest courtiers had access, today it is Russia’s largest art museum that owns an astounding collection of about 3 mln pieces of art.

Start from the Jordan Staircase that will strike you with its splendor, the glimmer of the golden stuccowork and the dazzling whiteness of the marble statues. View the Winter Palace superb staterooms: the Field-marshal’s Hall, the Small Throne Room commemorating Peter the Great and his deeds, the Emblem Hall with its vast gilded columns, the Gallery of 1812 displaying portraits of Russian military heroes of the Napoleonic war, the Hall of St. George fitted in Cararra marble and gilt bronze.



Marvel the Pavilion Hall with its slender marble columns supporting an elegant gallery and 28 scintillating cut-glass chandeliers. A real gem in the Hermitage collection is the famous Peacock Clock in a glass cage made by a celebrated English clockmaker in the middle 18th century and presented to Catherine II by her favorite, prince Potyomkin.

You will continue the tour moving from one building into another by covered galleries. Visit the Old Hermitage that houses a vast Italian collection of art boasting such names as Leonardo Da Vinci, Titian, Rafael and Michelangelo. Next, proceed to the New Hermitage and admire spacious Skylight Halls featuring 17-18th century Italian art and Spanish leading artists of the golden age from El Greco to Murillo, Zurbaran, Velasquez and Goya. Do not miss the Hermitage Rembrandt collection of 23 paintings as well as some great examples of Dutch and Flemish art.

You will also be able to see other exhibits such as Porcelain, Pottery, Silverware, Furniture and Antiques. This will depend on each visit, as some of the exhibits are not permanent in the museum and travel to other venues.

Following your visit to the Hermitage Museum, take a direct transfer to the St. Petersburg airport for your return flights home.