Day to Day Itinerary
Meals provided where specified: (B) breakfast, (L) lunch and/or (D) dinner.

Thu 20 Sep Wellington - Moscow
Travel Wellington – Moscow. The tour price does not include the flight to Moscow, so participants can choose their preferred airline. The tour leader’s flight will be advised as soon as possible, so that participants wishing to travel with the tour leader can make appropriate arrangements.

Fri 21 Sep Moscow
Those who travel with the tour leader will be met at the airport by the Moscow guide and transferred to the centrally-located hotel. Transfers at other times can be arranged at an additional cost. The remainder of the day is free to start exploring Moscow.

Sat 22 Sep Moscow
This morning’s sightseeing includes a visit to the Moscow Kremlin, including one of the cathedrals and the Armoury, noted for its splendid collection of priceless art objects, icons and historical treasures. At lunchtime we emerge onto the impressive Red Square and, after a brief orientation, participants are free to explore central Moscow. (B)

Sun 23 Sep Moscow
Moscow sightseeing starts with a panoramic tour of Russia’s enormous capital. We visit the Sparrow Hills and the Novodevichy cemetery. This afternoon’s highlight is the Tret’yakov Gallery, a treasury of Russian art from icons to impressionism. This evening we will attend a concert at the Moscow Conservatory (may be changed to a different evening depending on concert schedule). (B, L)

Mon 24 Sep Moscow
Today is a free day to explore Moscow. This evening there will be an included excursion to an opera or ballet performance. (B)

Tue 25 Sep Moscow
Today’s highlight is a visit to the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, with its fabulous collection of western art and artefacts. After lunch we visit the Kolomenskoye estate, located on the banks of the Moscow River, away from the hustle and bustle of the central city. The Church of the Ascension at Kolomenskoye was built to commemorate the birth of the tsarevich who would later be known as Ivan the Terrible. The church is a Unesco World Heritage site. (B, L)

Wed 26 Sep Moscow - Sergiev Posad - Rostov Veliki - Yaroslavl
Today we leave Moscow to tour the most important sights of the Golden Ring – a collection of medieval towns northeast of Moscow. Our first stop is the town of Sergiev Posad, where we will visit the Trinity Monastery of St Sergius, founded by the 14th century St Sergius, Russia’s patron saint. The monastery eventually became the acknowledged centre of Russian Orthodoxy. Boris Godunov is buried there. After lunch we continue to Rostov Veliki, idyllically situated on the shore of Lake Nero. After a walking tour of the Kremlin, we continue to Yaroslavl, which first developed during the 16th century as the principal port on the Volga. (B, L, D)

Thu 27 Sep Yaroslavl
This morning we will take a cruise along the famous ‘mother-river’ of Russia – the Volga. Our destination is the still functioning Tolshsky Nunnery. After lunch we will tour Yaroslavl, including the Church of Ilya the Prophet, the Spasso-Preobrazhensky Monastery, where a short bell concert will take place, and the Time and Music Museum. (B, L)

Fri 28 Sep Yaroslavl - Kostroma
This morning’s journey takes us to Kostroma, located downstream from Yaroslavl, on the left bank of the Volga. Our afternoon tour includes the town centre and the Ipatievsky Monastery – famous as the location where in 1918 Russia’s religious and political leaders invited the 16-year-old Mikhail Romanov to become tsar. (B, L, D)

Sat 29 Sep Kostroma - Suzdal
Travelling via the industrial city of Ivanovo, once known as the Russian Manchester, our adventure takes us to the village of Palekh – famous worldwide for its lacquered boxes. Visits to the Museum of Lacquered Miniatures and the Golikov House Museum are included. By evening we will reach Suzdal, one of the most picturesque towns in Russia and an essential stop on the Golden Ring. (B, L, D)

Sun 30 Sep Suzdal
A guided walking tour of the town includes the open air Museum of Wooden Architecture. Free time in the afternoon, at the half-way point of the journey. (B, L)

Mon 31 Oct Suzdal - Vladimir - Moscow
Suzdal is only a short drive from Vladimir, an important and ancient city on the Moscow-Siberia road. We will tour the city and visit the cathedrals and the Golden Gate. By evening we will return to Moscow and, after a circus performance and a late dinner, we’ll catch the famous Red Arrow overnight train to St Petersburg. (B, L, D)

Tue 1 Oct St Petersburg
Early morning arrival in St Petersburg will be followed by breakfast then a panoramic coach tour of the magnificent city, which will include a visit to the awe-inspiring St Isaac’s Cathedral. Free time in the afternoon. (B)

Wed 2 Oct St Petersburg
This morning is dedicated to Russian art at the Russian Museum on the Square of Arts. After a guided tour and free time, we’ll visit the Yusupov Palace - considered one of the most elegant private homes of Europe. It witnessed the macabre demise of Rasputin. From there we will walk to an exciting folklore performance, which includes Cossack dancing and refreshments. (B, L)

Thu 3 Oct St Petersburg
This day we visit the modest log cabin that was Peter the Great’s first home in the remote delta that would become Russia’s capital. Next we will tour the fortress of SS Peter and Paul, visit its imposing cathedral, and enter one of the fortress’s notorious prison blocks. Return to the hotel in the early afternoon. (B)

Fri 4 Oct St Petersburg
Today is dedicated to the famous Hermitage museum, a treasure of mainly western art, housed in an ensemble of five palaces on the embankment of the Neva. An extensive guided tour will be followed by free time in the museum. Participants are at liberty to return to the hotel at their leisure. (B)

Sat 5 Oct St Petersburg
Free day. Art aficionados may wish to return to the Hermitage or to visit one of the countless other museums in St Petersburg. This evening a ballet or opera performance will be included. (B)

Sun 6 Oct Yaroslavl
After the tour to the From Russia touch briefly on the ‘Golden Ring’ – a group of ancient cities in the provinces north and east of Moscow which were capitals of principalities during medieval times. This study tour will follow a complete loop through Sergiev Posad, Yaroslavl’, Kostroma, Suzdal and Vladimir. Kostroma is closely associated with the foundation of the Romanov dynasty. Monasteries feature prominently on the Golden Ring – apart from being picturesque they were the principal repositories of art and culture during the vagaries of Russian history.

No trip to Russia would be complete without visiting the elegant, western-looking, former imperial capital – St Petersburg. Started in 1703, on land that was internationally recognised as a Swedish possession at the time, this astonishing metropolis was created according to the vision of Peter I (the Great), brutal enforcement of which was required. From Tsarskoye Selo to Peterhof, Peter the Great’s first home in the remote delta that would become Russia’s capital. Next we will tour the fortress of SS Peter and Paul, visit its imposing cathedral, and enter one of the fortress’s notorious prison blocks. Return to the hotel in the early afternoon. (B)

Note 1: the order of included sightseeing events, particularly evening performances, is subject to change in order to optimise the available performances.

Note 2: At the time of preparation of the itinerary it was not possible to reserve seats at the Bolshoi Theatre. Tickets are difficult to get hold of and may cost as much as EUR200. Closer to the time of departure it may become possible to arrange tickets.

Thu 2 Oct St Petersburg
Early morning arrival in St Petersburg will be followed by breakfast then a panoramic coach tour of the magnificent city, which will include a visit to the awe-inspiring St Isaac’s Cathedral. Free time in the afternoon. (B)

Fri 3 Oct St Petersburg
This morning is dedicated to Russian art at the Russian Museum on the Square of Arts. After a guided tour and free time, we’ll visit the Yusupov Palace - considered one of the most elegant private homes of Europe. It witnessed the macabre demise of Rasputin. From there we will walk to an exciting folklore performance, which includes Cossack dancing and refreshments. (B, L)

Sat 4 Oct St Petersburg
This day we visit the modest log cabin that was Peter the Great’s first home in the remote delta that would become Russia’s capital. Next we will tour the fortress of SS Peter and Paul, visit its imposing cathedral, and enter one of the fortress’s notorious prison blocks. Return to the hotel in the early afternoon. (B)

Sun 5 Oct St Petersburg
Today is dedicated to the famous Hermitage museum, a treasure of mainly western art, housed in an ensemble of five palaces on the embankment of the Neva. An extensive guided tour will be followed by free time in the museum. Participants are at liberty to return to the hotel at their leisure. (B)

Mon 6 Oct St Petersburg
Free day. Art aficionados may wish to return to the Hermitage or to visit one of the countless other museums in St Petersburg. This evening a ballet or opera performance will be included. (B)

Tue 7 Oct Yaroslavl
After the tour to the From Russia touch briefly on the ‘Golden Ring’ – a group of ancient cities in the provinces north and east of Moscow which were capitals of principalities during medieval times. This study tour will follow a complete loop through Sergiev Posad, Yaroslavl’, Kostroma, Suzdal and Vladimir. Kostroma is closely associated with the foundation of the Romanov dynasty. Monasteries feature prominently on the Golden Ring – apart from being picturesque they were the principal repositories of art and culture during the vagaries of Russian history.

No trip to Russia would be complete without visiting the elegant, western-looking, former imperial capital – St Petersburg. Started in 1703, on land that was internationally recognised as a Swedish possession at the time, this astonishing metropolis was created according to the vision of Peter I (the Great), brutal enforcement of which was required. From Tsarskoye Selo to Peterhof, Peter the Great’s first home in the remote delta that would become Russia’s capital. Next we will tour the fortress of SS Peter and Paul, visit its imposing cathedral, and enter one of the fortress’s notorious prison blocks. Return to the hotel in the early afternoon. (B)

Note 1: the order of included sightseeing events, particularly evening performances, is subject to change in order to optimise the available performances.

Note 2: At the time of preparation of the itinerary it was not possible to reserve seats at the Bolshoi Theatre. Tickets are difficult to get hold of and may cost as much as EUR200. Closer to the time of departure it may become possible to arrange tickets.
Enrolment and other information

Tour Leader
Martin Boswell worked as a tour director for major international tour companies for 12 years. He specialised in Scandinavia and Russia, but has worked in all European countries as well as the South Pacific. He completed a BA in Modern Languages at Victoria University, speaks fluent Russian, and has led over 40 tours to Russia. Martin conducted the inaugural Russia study tour for Victoria University Community Continuing Education in 2008 and the 2011 tour of Russia and the Baltic.

Enrolment/Deposit
We are currently taking enrolments for this tour by phone, post or in person. Please fill out the enrolment form and either mail it to us or bring it in. You can also enrol by phone by calling 04-463 6556.

A deposit of NZ$1500 per person is required at time of enrolment. This can be paid by cheque, credit card or eftpos. Enrolments after Friday 15 June 2012 will be required to pay the full fee.

There may still be spaces on the tour after this date - please enquire.

Full payment
Payment of the balance of the fee will be required by Friday 15 June 2012.

Pre-tour Meetings
There will be a pre-tour meeting in 2012 to provide practical advice and information. Date to be advised. It will be an informal evening with tea and coffee provided.

Pre-tour study
Martin Boswell will deliver a short course Russia and the Romanovs, 6pm-9pm, Thursdays 17, 24 and 31 May, which provides a comprehensive background to the study tour.

Commentary on-tour
Martin Boswell will provide commentaries on tour. There will also be local guides.

Travel
The tour has been planned for people to meet in Moscow and finish in St Petersburg. Participants will need to make their own way to Moscow.

If there is sufficient demand for group flights from New Zealand to Russia and return, we can organise them. Please indicate if you would prefer to join a group flight from New Zealand to Russia on the enrolment form.

Accommodation/Meals
Accommodation will be in 3- or 4-star hotels in shared or single rooms with private shower or bath. Breakfast will be provided each day. Lunch and/or dinner will be provided on some days - please see the itinerary.

Passport/Visas
It is essential to have a current passport (valid for at least six months after return to New Zealand). A visa is required for New Zealand passport holders travelling to Russia. The cost of a Russian visa for New Zealand passport holders is currently NZ$110 per person. This is not included in the study tour fee.

Holders of passports issued by countries other than New Zealand are advised to check visa requirements with the Russian Embassy. New Zealand re-entry permits are required by those travelling on non-New Zealand passports.

Insurance
Adequate travel insurance is essential and is not included in the tour fee.

Health and Fitness
The tour is not particularly strenuous and provision is made for a reasonable amount of free time. However you should be in good health and you should be able to carry your own luggage.

To ensure the wellbeing of tour members and overall enjoyment of the tour group, each tour member will be required to complete a medical questionnaire. Victoria University reserves the right to request written medical information or opinions on your physical capability for this study tour from a doctor or physician if necessary.

Fee
(Note, this does not include airfares to and from Russia).

- NZ$7,990 (shared room)
- NZ$9,990 (single room)

A deposit of NZ$1500 per person is required at time of enrolment - on or before Friday 15 June 2012. Payment of the balance of the fee will be required by Friday 15 June 2012.

There may still be places available on this tour after these dates - please enquire.

The fee includes:
- pre-tour meetings
- land travel
- sightseeing and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary
- meals as shown on the itinerary

The fee does not include:
- flights to and from Russia
- lunch and dinner in places other than those specified
- insurance
- passport costs
- additional costs for visas and/or re-entry permits for those travelling on non-New Zealand passports
- other items of a personal nature.

The fee is subject to major currency fluctuations. If you are travelling alone and request to share a room, you will be asked to upgrade and pay for a single room if a room-mate is not available.

Cancellation/Withdrawal
Victoria University reserves the right to cancel the tour and to refuse or cancel any enrolment for the tour. In either event all payments made will be refunded in full.

Please note:
- If you withdraw from this tour:
  - before or on 1 June 2011, your deposit will not be refunded.
  - between 1 June and 10 July 2011, we will retain 50% of the total fee paid.
  - on or after 10 July 2011, we will retain 100% of the total fee paid.

A withdrawal will only be effective when we receive written confirmation of the withdrawal.

You are strongly advised to take out adequate travel insurance to cover unforeseen circumstances.

Visit our website for full itinerary, tour information and enrolment forms www.victoria.ac.nz/studytours

Pre-tour meetings
Friday 15 June 2012.

Payment of the balance of the fee will be required by

Full payment
Friday 15 June 2012.

Pre-tour meetings
Friday 15 June 2012.