Exclusive UCLA departure – August 14-27, 2018

St. Petersburg & the Baltic Capitals

14 days from $4,798 total price from Boston, New York
($4,295 air & land inclusive plus $503 airline taxes and fees)

The curtain opened, and finally we could see what lay behind ... now, sophisticated travelers are drawn to witness a world transformed. Visiting four distinct nations, four thriving capitals and their provincial outskirts, we discover for ourselves the fascinating heritage and stimulating contemporary life of this remarkable and diverse region.

On Day 13 we tour Peterhof, former summer palace of the czars that is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Vilnius, Lithuania

Day 2: Arrive Vilnius After connecting in Europe, a short flight this morning brings us to Vilnius, the attractive Lithuanian capital with Baroque architecture, numerous churches, medieval towers and fortifications, and one of Eastern Europe’s oldest “Old Towns.” Our afternoon in this historic city is at leisure before tonight’s dinner at our hotel.

Day 3: Vilnius We see the highlights of the city, a UNESCO World Heritage site, on this morning’s tour, including Cathedral Square, Gediminas’ Tower, Vilnius University, and the President’s Palace. We also tour the fascinating KGB Museum. The remainder of the day is at leisure, perhaps to relax at one of the many outdoor cafés; explore the old Jewish Quarter and ghetto; or admire the city’s architectural diversity.

Day 4: Vilnius/Trakai Today we travel about 20 miles outside Vilnius to Trakai, the medieval capital of Lithuania set in a resort village surrounded by five lakes. Here we tour 15th-century Trakai Castle, with exhibits commemorating the days when the Grand Duchy of Lithuania stretched all the way from the Baltic to the Black Sea. After a turbulent history of Russian rule, in 1991 Lithuania became one of the first of the Soviet Union’s breakaway republics and today, again, is a sovereign democratic nation.

Day 5: Vilnius/Riga We leave this morning for Riga, the Latvian capital. En route we stop for lunch in Siauliai where we visit the Hill of Crosses, a pilgrimage site and symbol of Lithuanian nationalism. After crossing the border into Latvia, we travel through gentle countryside to the restored 18th-century Baroque palace of Rundale. Designed by Bartolomeo Rastrelli, who also designed St. Petersburg’s Hermitage, Rundale’s construction took more than 30 years and 1,500 workers. From here we continue on to surprisingly sophisticated Riga, once known as the “little Paris of the North.” We dine tonight at our hotel.

Day 6: Riga This morning’s city tour reveals the special treasures of this Baltic gem, once Russia’s coveted warm-water port and the largest of the Baltic capitals. Riga boasts lovingly restored architecture ranging from medieval to art nouveau; a well-preserved Old Town; magnificent churches, including St. Mary’s Cathedral (the Dom), with its 6,789-pipe organ; and a lively arts scene. The afternoon is free; our well-located hotel offers easy access to Riga’s attractions.

Visit us at travel.alumni.ucla.edu
Day 7: Riga/Sigulda  Today we travel east of Riga to Sigulda to visit Gauja National Park, Latvia’s premier nature preserve. Our excursion includes a visit to Gutmanns’ Cave, a 35-foot cavern bubbling with fresh spring water believed to have curative powers; and the ruins of Turaida Castle, whose round red brick tower rises above the forest canopy. We return to Riga mid-day and dine together tonight.  B,D

Day 8: Riga/Parnu/Tallinn  En route to the Estonian capital of Tallinn, we stop for lunch in seaside Parnu, Estonia’s “summer capital.” We reach Tallinn late this afternoon; dinner is at a local restaurant. B,L,D

Day 9: Tallinn  This northernmost Baltic capital has endured a history similar to that of its cousins: a favored port location often coveted by its more powerful neighbors; centuries of war with brief periods of independence; 20th-century annexing by Russia; and finally, again, independence. We see layers of Tallinn’s tumultuous history on this morning’s city tour featuring the surprisingly well-preserved medieval Old Town. Then the remainder of the day is free to enjoy this 800-year-old city as we wish. Green spaces abound, including vast Kadriorg Park, surrounding the palace and featuring a Japanese tea garden. B

Day 10: Tallinn  This morning we visit the Estonian Open-Air Museum at Rocca-al-Mare, where 18th- and 19th-century life is recreated with authentic wooden farm houses, churches, and other structures from rural parts of the world where independent travel would be a challenge.”

Day 11: Tallinn/St. Petersburg  We depart this morning by coach for St. Petersburg. After arriving late this afternoon we enjoy dinner together tonight. B,L,D

Day 12: St. Petersburg  Czar Peter the Great’s “window on the West,” St. Petersburg was built in the early 1700s on 44 islands, mostly swampland – a feat that took the lives of millions of workers. Today it is a beautiful city, laced with canals, graceful bridges, and Empire-style buildings. Our daylong tour includes a visit to awe-inspiring St. Isaac’s Cathedral, whose construction took more than 40 years. We see the Peter & Paul Fortress, the Bronze Horseman statue of city founder Peter the Great, and the main thoroughfare of Nevsky Prospekt. Then for a fascinating window on Russian life, we join a local family for lunch and conversation. This afternoon we take a guided tour of the world-renowned Hermitage Museum founded by Catherine the Great in 1764 and housing one of the world’s greatest fine arts collections. Dinner tonight is on our own. B,L,D

Day 13: St. Petersburg/Peterhof  This morning we travel to Peterhof, one of the many royal “summer” palaces built by the Romanovs during the last two centuries of their rule. Most of these palaces were virtually destroyed by retreating Germans during World War II and later rebuilt to their original designs, complete with gilding. Known for its elaborate fountains with golden statues and 142 jets, Peterhof sits in a huge park with a formal 18th-century garden. Our tour includes both the Grand Royal Palace and the Upper and Lower gardens. Tonight we gather for dinner to bid “da svidnya” to St. Petersburg. B,D

Day 14: Depart for U.S.  We depart this morning for our connecting flight to the United States. B

Tour membership limited to 24 UCLA alumni and friends

Meet Your Faculty Lecturer

Dr. Susan Kresin has been working in the Department of Slavic, East European and Eurasian Languages since 1996, where she teaches Russian, Czech, and graduate courses on Russian linguistics and Church Slavic. She also serves as the Student Coordinator of the UCLA Russian Flagship Program, where she enjoys working individually with students to help them to combine Russian in various ways with their individual interests, majors, and career plans. Her recent publications reflect the variety of roles that she encompasses in her work at UCLA: they include articles on Russian song, comparative linguistics, corpus linguistics, and Czech heritage learners. Recently, she has become a vice-president of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages.

We visit beautiful 15th-century Trakai Castle on Day 4.

Post-Tour Extension

August 27-29, 2018

St. Petersburg – On Your Own

3 days/2 nights for $425 total price

Explore more of this fascinating city – Russia’s cultural heart – at your own pace, from our centrally located hotel on Nevsky Prospekt adjacent to Arts Square.

Your Tour Price Includes

• 2 nights’ accommodations at Belmond Grand Hotel Europe (Deluxe)
• 2 meals: 2 breakfasts
• Transfer to airport

Your Tour Price Includes

• Round-trip air transportation from listed cities
• 12 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe, Superior First Class, and First Class hotels
• 24 meals: 12 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 dinners
• Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
• Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
• Luggage handling for one bag per person
• Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers
• UCLA lecturer’s participation is contingent on a minimum of 15 paying travelers

Tour Departs: August 14, 2018

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees

Boston, New York $4,798
Philadelphia, Washington, DC $4,998
Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Miami, Orlando, Tampa $5,098
Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Portland (OR), San Francisco, Seattle $5,298

Land Only (transfers not included) $3,695

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of $503, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add $895. All 2018 tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Airline upgrades on round-trip Trans-Atlantic flight: Business Class – $3,595 per person; Premium Economy – $895 per person in addition to the above costs (upgrades are subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

For reservations, call UCLA Alumni Travel at 310-206-0613 or email travel@alumni.ucla.edu
Tour Prices
Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2018, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; services of a UCLA Lecturer or Host with a minimum of 15 travelers; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities
Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on “On Your Own” optional extensions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price
Airfare from your hometown to your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities $10-$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment
A deposit of $500 per person confirms your reservation. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

Cancellations and Refunds
If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:
For all tours (except as noted)

Prior to departure | Charge
--- | ---
95 days or more: | $200
94-65 days: | 25% of tour price
64-45 days: | 50% of tour price
44-30 days: | 75% of tour price
29-0 days: | No refund

For Africa’s Wildlife & Machu Picchu to the Galapagos

Prior to departure | Charge
--- | ---
95 days or more: | $200
94-65 days: | 50% of tour price
64-30 days: | 75% of tour price
29-0 days: | No refund

Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. If because of low participation Odysseys Unlimited cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Pre-Departure

After reserving your tour, you will receive pre-departure mailings that include a detailed itinerary, visa requirements, and reading list. We will send your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers) two to three weeks before departure.

Single Travelers

We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We will endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

Changes to Your Reservation

We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason or at any time, you will be charged the single supplement.

Please note that no changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.

Required Information

Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit www.tsa.gov), as well as for our travel partners: for international tours – your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender; for domestic tours – your full name as it appears on the accepted form of government-issued photo identification that you plan to use, date of birth, and gender.

In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport (international tours) or other form of government-issued photo identification (domestic tours) than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket’s reissue.

Travel Documents

A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all international tours in this catalog. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.

Smoking

For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Odysseys Unlimited has a No Smoking policy on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

Health and Medical Issues

We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an
Odysseys Unlimited tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. **You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance if you require the use of a wheelchair or have other personal needs; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that a number of our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the UCLA Alumni Association reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, the UCLA Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

**Air Transportation**

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer more direct service, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates that enable us to offer you the best possible travel value. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignments on your flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes.** In addition, we recommend that you not purchase your tickets until final payment is due. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the UCLA Alumni Association will incur no liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes therein. In any event, neither Odysseys’s Unlimited, Inc., nor the UCLA Alumni Association is responsible for losses, direct or indirect, or missed components of a trip which result from air delays, cancellations, rerouting or any other air-related problem.

**Responsibility**

The liability of the UCLA Alumni Association, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under its control. It serves only as an agent for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The UCLA Alumni Association and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within its control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality. Cruise itineraries may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions.
Enclosed is my/our deposit for $______ ($500 per person) for ____ person/people on the tour listed below. I/We understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send, along with completed reservation form, to: UCLA Alumni Association, Attn: Alumni Travel, James West Alumni Center, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1397. Or call UCLA Alumni Travel at 310-206-0613; fax: 310-209-4271; e-mail: travel@alumni.ucla.edu.

Tour Name ________________________________________________________________________________________
Departure Date _____________________________________________________________________________________
Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up ☐

Full Passport Name __________________________________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender ___
Full Passport Name __________________________________________________ Date of Birth __________ Gender ___
Address _____________________________________________________________________________________________
City __________________________________ State ______ ZIP ______________
Home Phone (____)___________________________ Cell Phone (____)______________________________
E-mail(s) __________________________________________________________ Badge Name(s) _________________________

Please book my/our air from __________________________ I/We request an air upgrade to ______________________
I will share a room with ________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) ☐
I/we request an upgrade to TENT category _________________ (for Africa’s Wildlife only)
I/we request an upgrade to a Highland Villa (for Machu Picchu to the Galapagos only) ☐

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for this trip and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions:

Signature __________________________________________________________________________ Date ____________

Method of Payment
☐ Check ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Account # ____________________________ Security Code __________ Exp. Date ______________

Name of Cardholder _______________________________________________________________
Signature __________________________________________________________________________

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure and can be paid by check or credit card.

UCLA Alumni Travel is a benefit of the UCLA Alumni Association, and membership at least at the Blue Membership level is required.
☐ I am a member of the UCLA Alumni Association.
☐ I have enclosed a check for ☐ $100 Blue Membership (annual gift) ☐ $1,000 Gold Membership (one time gift)
Made payable to the UCLA Foundation.