

# 8th Pilgrimage to Holy Places of Russia 2016

**Moscow-Kazan-Perm-Kazan -Barnaul-Biisk-Gorno-Altai-Barnaul-Moscow**

## **1st Day - Wed., 20 July - Moscow - Kazan**

Arrival in Kazan, via Moscow, transfer to hotel. Supper. Rest (those who have arrived earlier during the day may attend the vigil in church).

## **2nd Day - Thurs., 21 July - Kazan**

**Feast of the appearance of the "Kazan" icon of the Mother of God - Divine Liturgy.** Lunch. Sight-seeing excursion through the city. The Kremlin. Annunciation cathedral. History of the city. The holy hierarchs and martyrs of Kazan. Sts. Peter and Paul cathedral, St. Paraskeva church and the memorial church on the Kazanka River. The Kizicheskiy monastery of the Entry of the Virgin Mary into the Temple and the Holy Dormition (Uspensky) monastery on the Zilantov hill. The holy relics of St. Guriy. The Kazan icon of the Mother of God. The pedestrian streets of the city. The holy relics of St. German, archbishop of Kazan and Sviazhsk in the St. John the Baptist men's monastery. The holy relics of St. Nicholas, the wonderwork of Myra in Lycia at the Church of St. John of Kronstadt at the Kazan Theological Seminary. The old city. Free time. Supper. Evening prayers. Rest.

## **3rd Day - Fri., 22 July - Kazan**

Morning prayers. Breakfast at the hotel. Excursion by bus to the island-town of Sviazhsk with a visit to unique churches: the wooden Holy Trinity church from the 16th century, which was visited twice by Tsar Ivan IV the "Terrible", before and after his capture of Kazan. Outside view of the Dormition monastery. The Joy of All Who Sorrow church, St. Nicholas church and St. Sergius church. Return to Kazan. Lunch. Free time. Supper. Evening prayers.

## **4th Day - Sat., 23 July - Kazan**

Morning prayers. Breakfast. Vacating of hotel rooms. Excursion by bus to the Raithu men's monastery of the Mother of God (an architectural complex of the 17-19th centuries); along the highway a view of the "Church of all religions." The Wonderworking Georgian icon of the Mother of God. Holy Trinity cathedral. The church of the Holy Fathers martyred at Sinai and Raithu. The smallest church in Europe dedicated to the Holy Martyrs Vera, Nadezhda, Lubov and their mother Sophia. The unique lake near the monastery. Lunch in the refectory of the Raithu monastery. Return to Kazan. At 20:00 boarding the cruise ship. Departure at 21:00. **Beginning of the Kazan-Perm-Kazan cruise.**

## **5th Day - Sun., 24 July - Nizhnekamensk**

Commemoration of St. Olga, the Great Princess and Equal-of-the Apostles. Due to the fact that we will be sailing, there will be a Reader's service in place of the Liturgy.

13:00-16:00 - an excursion by foot to the "Holy Spring." Visit to a park area with shady alleys, reservoirs and mineral springs. 500 metres from the harbor this is truly a unique place: according to legend, the Spring became miraculous in olden times, when a Moslem by the name of Mahomet found an icon of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker at the base of the spring's source. From that time on the spring became a place of veneration for both the Orthodox and the Moslems. Pilgrimages to the Holy Spring for the holy water commenced in the 18th century. The richest merchants of Lower Prikamnia, the Stakheyev family, built their estate in this location. A frequent visitor to the Stakheyev home was St. John of Kronstadt. On this territory there are two pools for those who desire to be immersed in healing water, a waterfall, gazebos for taking a rest, a beautifully kept river bank. During the course of the excursion, the pilgrims will learn about the Ananian burial grounds, the ancient town of Briakhimov, see the amazing creations of nature - underground caves; hear about the violent

military battles on the Volga during the Civil War, the history of the region and the appearance of a new city on the Kam River - Nizhnekamsk. Evening prayers.

### **6th Day - Mon., 25 July - Sarapul**

Morning prayers. 08:00-11:00 - excursion by foot in the city. Sarapul is called the "Barcelona of the Prikamsk region", being the oldest and most beautiful city in which have been preserved more than 100 architectural monuments of various styles, covering practically the entire central historical part of the city. Among them are mansions, buildings for business, a former school for girls, and a shelter for the poor and homeless. The Corinthian half-columns, moldings, elements of baroque, Russian-Byzantine style and style moderne - all of this causes one to delve sensually into the mystical presence of the past. Visiting Sarapul on foot gives one the opportunity to understand the city and to appreciate its unique beauty. St. John of Kronstadt visited this city in June of 1904. At the present time there are 2 active Orthodox churches in Sarapul - the church of the Blessed Xenia of St. Petersburg and the church of the Resurrection of Christ. Evening prayers.

### **7th Day - Tues., 26 July - Perm**

Morning prayers. Breakfast. 10:00-18:00 - Excursion through the city by bus (from 10 to 11:30) with a visit to the Holy Trinity cathedral, the cathedral of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and other churches of the city. The historical centre and contemporary Perm. Lunch. Transfer to the Belaya Gora, the "White Mountain" - known as the "Athos of the Urals," and the St. Nicholas men's monastery. Supper. Departure for the city of Osa. Settling into the hotel. Evening prayers.

### **8th Day - Wed., 27 July - Osa, Tchaikovsky**

Morning prayers. Breakfast. At 08:00 commencement of the overview excursion through the city. The churches of the Holy Trinity and of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God. The museum. The panorama. Departure for the city of Tchaikovsky. Arrival at 13:30 at the cruise ship. Vigil service on the ship.

### **9th Day - Thurs., 28 July - Yelabuga**

**The feast of St. Vladimir, the Great Prince and Equal-of-the-Apostles. Divine Liturgy.** Breakfast. The cruise ship will be in the port from **09:00 to 14:00**. Excursion through the city of Yelabuga - one of the oldest cities of Tatarstan, with unique historical and archaeological monuments. Visit to the ancient fort with its view. The history of the Kazan-Virgin convent of Yelabuga and its holy relics. Yelabuga's Cathedral of the Saviour. A meeting with the Orthodox faithful of Yelabuga. Boarding the cruise ship at 13:30, continuation of the journey. Evening prayers.

### **10th Day - Fri., 29 July - Kazan**

Morning prayers. Breakfast. Arrival on the cruise ship at 08:00 and exit. Transfer to the airport. Flight from Kazan to Moscow to Barnaul. Evening prayers. The entire day will be spent in travel.

### **11th Day - Sat., 30 July - Barnaul, Biisk (180 km.)**

**Meeting with the Altai region... Arrival in Barnaul.** Morning prayers will be read on the road. Meeting with the guide at the airport, transfer to the city. Overview excursion through the city with a visit to the St. Dimitry of Rostov church, the Znamenny ("Of the Sign") convent, St. Nicholas church. Moleben (prayer service) for the health and well-being of the pilgrims. Lunch. Departure for Biisk. Accommodations in hotel. Free time. Supper. Vigil service.

### **12th Day - Sun., 31 July - Biisk, Chemal (250 km.)**

**Divine Liturgy in the Dormition cathedral.** Breakfast. Thematic excursion - "Orthodox Biisk." The episcopal house of Biisk - a living monument of Orthodox history and culture in the Altai region. The museum of the Altai Spiritual Mission. Departure for the Republic of Altai. Stopover at the village of Srostki. The church of the Great Martyr Catherine. Travel on the Chuisk highway. Chemal. Accommodations in the guest house. Russian

sauna available. Supper. Evening prayers.

**13th Day - Mon., 1st Aug. - Chermal (40 km.)**

**Patmos Island. Horse riding. The commemoration of our Father among the Saints, Seraphim of Sarov, the Wonderworker - Divine Liturgy.** Breakfast. Excursion on Patmos Island. The episcopal residence in honor of St. Makary (Nevsky), Metropolitan of Moscow, and of the Altai. The church of St. Makary of Moscow. Excursion by foot along the "Goats' Path" along the Katun' River. The panorama of the merger of the Cherala and Katun' Rivers. A view of the Chermal hydro-electric station. After lunch, horse-riding for those who wish. Free time. Supper. Evening prayers.

**14th Day - Tues., 2nd Aug. - Chermal, Teletskiy Lake (270 km)**

**Gorno-Altai - Teletskiy Lake**

**Commemoration of the Holy and Glorious Prophet of God Elias - Divine Liturgy.** Breakfast. For morning tea - homemade piroshki with chokecherry jam. The church of the Joy of All Who Sorrow. Moleben for the pilgrims. Departure for Gorno-Altai. Manzherok. Ascent to the Little Siniukha Mountain by cable car. Beautiful panorama of the Katun' valley. Gorno-Altai. Lunch. Church in honor of St. Makary of the Altai. Lunch. The holy Kazan spring in the village of Paspaul. Arrival at the source of the Bii River. Accommodation in the elegant guest house. Russian sauna. Supper. Evening prayers.

**15th Day - Wed., 3rd Aug. - Teletskiy Lake**

**Teletskiy Lake. Korbu waterfalls.**

Morning prayers. Breakfast. Visit to the church of the "Umilenie" ("Of Compunction") icon of the Mother of God. Excursion by foot to the Missionary Cross - the monument to the founding of the Orthodox Mission to the Altai. The spring of St. Makary. For those who desire to do so, ascent to the observatory mountain of Tilan-Tuu (elevation of 741 metres). Panorama of the Teletskiy Lake and the source of the Bii River. Boat trip on the Teletskiy Lake. The Altai National nature reserve. Korbu Falls. Tasting of the teas of Altai and its drinks. Return to the hotel. Supper. Evening prayers.

**16th Day - Thurs., 4th Aug. - Bii River**

**Excursion on the Bii River.**

Morning prayers. Breakfast. For those who would like to go on excursion on the Bii River, this will be available. From the river one sees the amazing sights of the taiga, the picturesque mountains and remote villages hidden in the Altai. Lunch in an "ail" (a native dwelling like a teepee) with the tasting of traditional Altai cuisine. The conclusion of the rafting. Return to the hotel. Russian sauna. Supper. Evening prayers. Evening spent around a campfire with a real Tula samovar.

**17th Day - Fri., 5th Aug. - Barnaul (450 km)**

**Departure for Barnaul.**

Morning prayers. Breakfast. Departure for Gorno-Altai. Church of the Protection of the Mother of God. The National Cultural Museum in honor of A.V. Anokhin. Visit to a souvenir shop. Departure for Barnaul. Accommodation at a hotel outside the city. Supper. Evening prayers.

**18th Day - Sat., 6th Aug. - Barnaul**

**Farewell to the Altai.**

Morning prayers. Transfer to the airport for the flight to Moscow. Arrival in Moscow. Transfers to return flights home for participating pilgrims.

**Attention:**

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**Hotel accommodations will be for two persons per room.**

**In the Altai region there will be two meals per day, three meals on the cruise ship.**

**Flights - Kazan-Moscow-Barnaul-Moscow, travel by bus, accompaniment and guides, excursions in Kazan, Perm. Pilgrims will be met in Moscow.**

**The cost of the Pilgrimage (excluding airfare to Moscow and home) - US \$2550.00 per person.**

**For further information concerning the Pilgrimage, which will be headed by His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America & New York, please contact Galina Konstantinovna Sologub, the organizer of these pilgrimages for many years, at:**

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