



Russian
ART TOUR

Explore, Discover and Study
the Art in Russia!

"Sadko" by Ilya Repin
(the Russian Museum)

The Art Treasures of Russia
by Cathy Locke



Russian Museum in St. Petersburg



When traveling to Russia, most visitors don't realize how many amazing masterpieces of national and international art are exhibited in the country's world-class museums.

The Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg should be on everyone's bucket list. Not only is it one of the largest museums in the world, it was also a magnificent palace for over two hundred years. It was built in a unique Russian Baroque style and no matter where you turn, it is decorated with art. Don't miss the Italian Skylight Room for some of the best examples of Italian Baroque art, including Caravaggio's "Lute Player". Not far from the Skylight Room is a hall filled with many of Rembrandt's greatest masterpieces. On the top floor of the Hermitage you will find works by Renoir, Monet, Van Gogh and Matisse. While you are here, be sure to hunt for Troyon's "On the Way to the Market," one of the finest examples in the world of work from the Barbizon School.



"Artist's Daughter" by Ivan Kramskoi

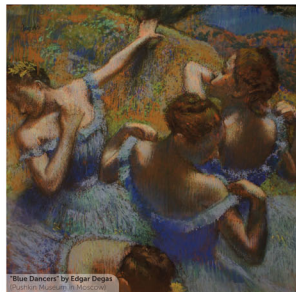
While you are in St. Petersburg, it is well worth it to visit the Russian Museum. This museum houses the crème de la crème of master works by Russian artists. You will be able to see many wonderful classical paintings as well as some of the best examples of Russian Symbolism and Russian Avant-Garde. Be sure to see Ivan Kramskoi's portraits as well as a very special painting, "Sadko," by Ilya Repin, who is called the "Rembrandt of Russia." When you enter the Benois wing, check out Mikhail Vrubel's monumental painting called "Morning," and look for



"The Lute Player" by Caravaggio

his painting, "Venice," which is the first example of Cubism. When this painting was first exhibited in Paris, a young Pablo Picasso was very influenced by it and called Vrubel a genius! As you continue visiting this part of the museum, you will come to a set of rooms that contain the works of Kazimir Malevich as well as a collection of Vasily Kandinsky's first abstract paintings.

No trip to Russia is complete without a visit to Moscow where you can visit the Pushkin Museum and the Tretyakov Gallery. The Pushkin is made up of three buildings, be sure to go to the European Building. The top two floors house one of the most expensive collections of French art in the world. Their collection of Picasso's paintings include choice works from his earliest Cubist paintings and key pieces from his Blue and Rose periods. The painting, "Rupe Rupe," by Paul Gauguin, has never traveled outside of Russia and is considered Gauguin's greatest masterpiece.



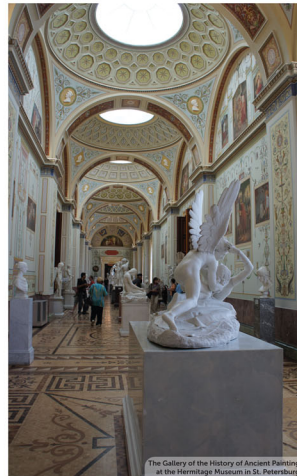
"The Dancers" by Edgar Degas

Russian Museum, St. Petersburg

The Tretyakov Gallery has the largest collection of Russian art in the world. When you go to this museum, the word "gallery" will take on a whole new meaning! This "gallery" houses over 130,000 collections of Russian art. Among these collections are the greatest Russian masters of all time.

During the first week in July, Cathy Locke, president of Russian Art Tour, leads an once-in-a-lifetime art tour to the museums mentioned in this article.

For more information regarding this tour, visit www.russianarttour.com

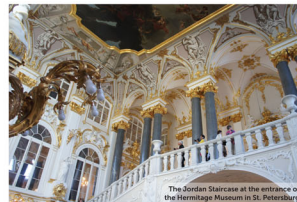


The Gallery of the History of Ancient Painting at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg



"Autumn, Fruit Picking" by Pierre Bonnard

Museum at the Pushkin



The Jordan Staircase at the entrance of the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg