

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY – TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2022

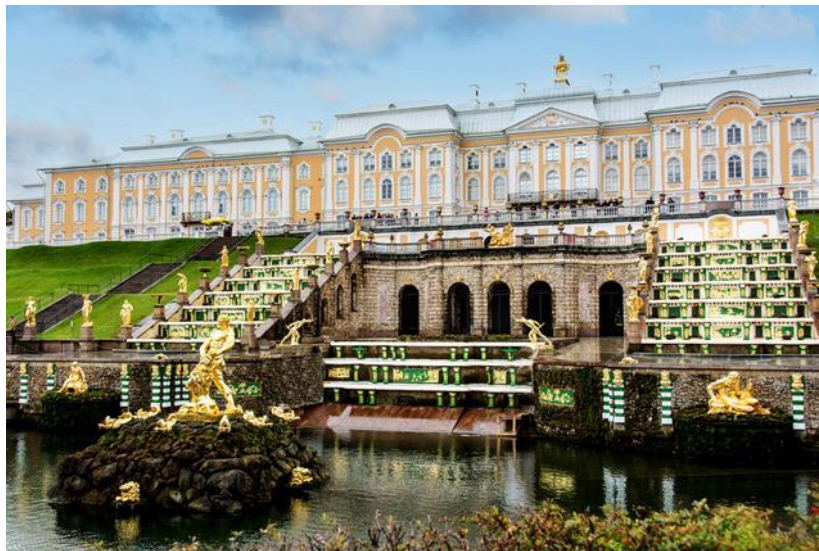
To be held in the Dove Suite at The Ark, Turners Hill. Timing 10.00 - 15.00

Subject: Armchair Travel

Lecturer: Jane Angelini BA MA

Lecture 1 - St Petersburg: The Venice of the North

St Petersburg is an epic city, founded in defiance of nature in a region of swampy marshland as Peter the Great's "window to the West". The city that evolved is a remarkably harmonious collection of baroque, rococo, neoclassical and art nouveau buildings that reflect his taste and that of his successors. The large sweeping vistas, the ordered architecture, the majestic palaces reflected in the waters of the canals make St Petersburg hauntingly beautiful. The museum collections are outstanding and unlike any other.



Peterhoff - The Great Cascade



Pavlovsk

Lecture 2 - The Jewel in the Crown: Arab and Norman Sicily

In the middle of the 11th century, at the time of the Norman Conquest, Palermo was one of the greatest commercial and cultural centres of the Muslim world. It was a busy metropolis with over 300 mosques, abuzz with markets, exchanges, craftsmen and artisans and all around were parks and pleasure gardens with fountains and running streams, so typical of the Muslim world. In 1072 Palermo fell to the Normans, taken by Roger I. During the 12th century Palermo became the most intellectually active and artistically eclectic centre in Europe; the great cathedrals of Cefalu, and Monreale, the Palatine Chapel of the Norman Palace, and the small church of Santa Maria Dell'Ammiraglio, witness to a brilliant fusion of Norman, Arab and Byzantine art and architecture.



Palatine Chapel



Mosaic of Roger ion Martorana

Lecture 3 - Venice and the Contribution to Lively Venetian Women

Venice is, quite simply, the most beautiful city in the world. A thousand years of independence, of sailing and trading, many centuries of a flourishing commercial empire and a unique position, have resulted in the harmonious growth of a beautiful entity. La Serenissima (The Most Serene City) holds an appeal which goes far beyond the sum of its many palaces, churches and monuments. This talk will provide a visual experience of the city, exploring some of the monuments and works of art that best represent its culture and spirit, especially during the Renaissance period. Against this background the role of women in Venice will be discussed, although famed throughout Europe, for most their life was a less than enviable silent subjugation to men and destiny. A handful of exceptional sixteenth century Venetian women - nuns, patricians, courtesans - managed to make their own way, academically, socially, and economically, leaving their mark on history



Canaletto Veduta del Palazzo Ducale



Veronica Franco