

2017 Sacramento Choral Society Singing Revolution Tour
Frequently Asked Questions
Last Updated 10/25/16

Basic Tour Costs

What are the costs for the Tour?

The full package tour (not including the extension) is \$3991 if paying by credit card. The land only package cost is \$2085. Cash/check payments are slightly less (no credit card fee).

What is the cost for the St. Petersburg extension?

Whether full package or land only, the cost for the extension is approximately \$855. This covers the train trip from Helsinki, hotel, all attraction entrance fees (Hermitage, Peterhof Grand Palace, and canal cruise), breakfast, and dinner for all days. The flight cost home is either covered by MCI if you are a full package tour member (the costs are similar to fly home from Helsinki or St. Petersburg), or by you if you are a land only tour member.

Why are we asked to pay the exact payment amounts listed on the payment schedule receipts?

The Tour Team will be processing more than 500 individual payments during the next several months. To ensure accurate bookkeeping and that your payments are properly credited to you, it definitely helps to keep to the payments listed on the receipt forms. We very much appreciate your understanding and patience!

Trip Insurance

How much is the supplemental insurance for the main tour? How about for the main tour plus the supplement?

- Basic standard insurance coverage is provided for all tour participants, including land-only and deviators.
- Please review the insurance forms from MCI to ensure you understand the basic coverage and the types of supplemental coverage offered through MCI. If you choose to purchase supplemental insurance, the type of coverage you want will determine the cost.

What about if I am land-only or deviate? Can I get insurance to cover the parts of the trip not organized by MCI (e.g., my flights, additional hotel nights, etc.)?

- The supplemental trip insurance offered through MCI can cover up to 7 additional days (in total) beyond the regular tour. In order to receive reimbursement for any non-MCI expenses (airfare, hotel, any other payments), you must have receipts.
- If the supplemental insurance offered through MCI is not to your liking, there are other travel insurance companies that offer coverage. You are under no obligation to purchase the supplemental coverage offered by MCI.

Do I write a check to SCSO for the supplemental travel insurance?

- NO - please make your travel insurance check out to MCI. You should provide the form and the check to the Tour Team - we will make copies so we have a record of your purchase, and forward the form and payment on to MCI for you.

Hotels/Rooms/Roomates

When will we have information about hotels?

- Information about hotels for Riga, Tallinn, and Helsinki is now posted on the Tour website. The St. Petersburg hotel is yet to be determined.

What is the cost for the Single Room Supplement?

- Baltics Tour = \$362
- St. Petersburg Extension = \$255
- Total Single Room Supplement cost for both: \$617

What if I want a roommate?

- You are encouraged to seek out other tour participants who might be looking for a like-minded traveler and to let the Tour Team know you've decided to room together
- The Tour Team will facilitate matching up additional tour participants as we get closer to the date where we need to specify the number of rooms we will need.

Is it possible to get a triple room?

- Yes, triple rooms are possible. They are the same sized rooms as the others, but with 3 twin beds instead of 2. So, there will be less space in the room, but it is do-able.

What are the electricity adapter/converter requirements for each of the countries?

- For all countries, the voltage is 220-240. A European adapter is needed, and if the appliance is not dual-voltage, you will need a step-down converter as well. Review this website for more info:

Land-Only and Deviations from the Tour

What are the requirements for deviating from the tour?

- If you are not going with the group to Riga, you are automatically a land only traveler and you must make all of your own flight arrangements. (*Please complete and turn in the Land-Only Form*)
- If you are going with the group to Riga, but wish to stay on for a few days in either in Helsinki or St. Petersburg, you would be a deviator and MCI will work with you to arrange your return flight to the US. There is a fee of \$200 plus any applicable airline fees to do this. (*Please complete and turn in the Deviation Form*)
- If you would like to go to another city, you can also be a deviator. MCI will book your flight from the last city you will be in. You will be responsible for travel arrangements between where the tour ends (either Helsinki or St. Petersburg) and the city from which you will depart back to the U.S. (e.g., if you end the tour in St. Petersburg but want to visit London after the tour, you should book your own flight from St. Petersburg to London, but MCI will book you from London to SF or Sacto). The deviation fee of \$200 will apply here as well.
- If you want to make a few stops on the way back to the US, you will be a land-only traveler, and you'll need to make your own flight arrangements.

Extension Tour - St. Petersburg, Russia

What about that Russian visa?

- How do I get one? More to come on this. MCI will be assisting with instructions on how to apply. Visas are only good for three months after the date of issue, so we need to wait until closer to our departure date to apply.
- How much does it cost? The visa is currently \$160, plus a filing fee. There is a cost difference for applying in person vs. sending it in by mail:
 - To file the application in person at the Russian Consulate in San Francisco, the filing fee is an additional \$33;
 - To mail it to the consulate, it is an additional \$103.

Miscellaneous

What paperwork do I need to turn in to SCSO?

1. A copy of your passport photo page - please bring a clear copy showing all four corners of the photo page to the tour table. We must provide this to MCI in order for flights and train arrangements to be ticketed.

2. Land Only or Deviation form (if you are going and/or returning separately from the tour group)
3. Insurance Form - whether you are declining additional supplemental insurance or purchasing additional supplemental insurance