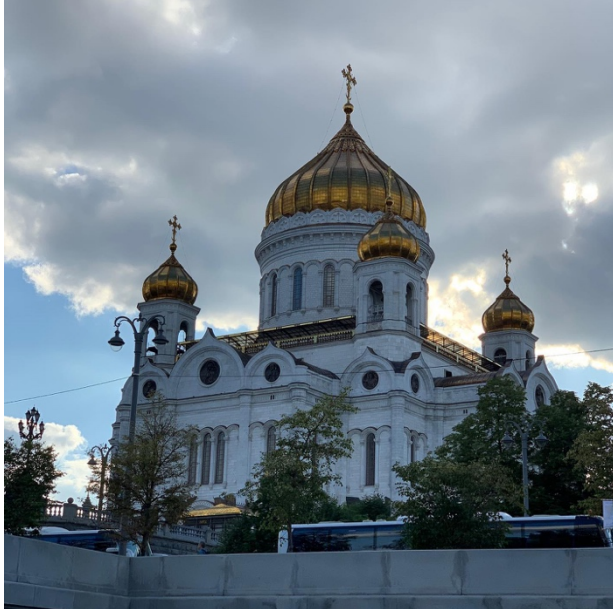
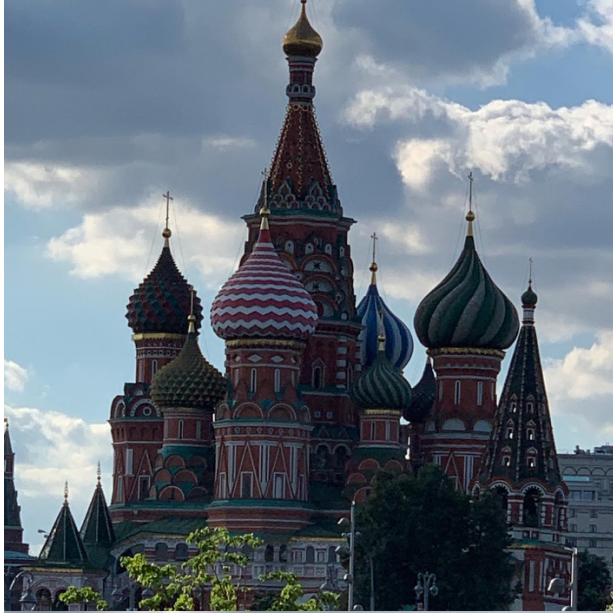


Russia 2019 – Day 2

Richard Taylor

Day 2 is Sunday if you are keeping track. I mention this because we left Wallingford on Friday and suddenly it was Saturday night. The day after Saturday is Sunday so it was day 2 instead of day three. If that makes sense to you, you should plan to join us next year. We began with breakfast at the hotel. Eating in Russia does nothing to help my cholesterol levels. They had the most delicious bacon I think I have ever eaten. I had three helpings (do not reveal this to Joyce). I even threw in a sausage. We began our day with some thoughts from Psalm 24 and prayer. And, we were off. A day to visit Moscow was planned. We began with a tour of an underground bunker from the cold war era. It was the place where government and military leaders would go in case of nuclear attack. Our guide was fabulous throwing in subtle Russian humor. He shared that Stalin's room was equipped with chess because he loved it. He said Stalin never lost in chess because Siberia was the next stop for anyone who beat him. Then it was on to the metro to view the art there. This was followed by a visit to the money exchange followed by lunch. We ate at the Gum (hear goom). It looked like a cafeteria but it wasn't. I was ready to try all sorts of things but you had to pick certain things in prescribed portions. I was not going to argue with a Russian waitress who was protected behind the counter. We next entered Red Square and toured St. Basil's church. A lot of history bounces off the walls. We heard one of those exquisite groups of male singers. Our plans were changed slightly so we took a River Cruise which was quite nice. Our tour guide gave us lots of history and fortunately did not test to see what we remembered. Time was up. We had to get to the train station for our overnight to Cherepovets. (We had to make a stop at Starbucks for the unnamed people who in addition to pizza and hamburgers require periodic stops there.). No problem to ride the bus. Remember the luggage problem. All the luggage had to be carried piece by piece, most of the pieces weighing 50 pounds. We had to make two trips. Each bag had to go through security. Then, we had to get them on the train which was 10 miles away (okay, I am exaggerating a great deal but it felt like it). Then, we had to figure out how to get all that baggage into our compartments and have sleeping room left. It is 11pm and day is wrapping up. We are eager to meet the children tomorrow morning and started. If you read this, thanks for your interest and support.



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