



Ski Estonia and/or Finland 2010

Tartu Maraton and the Finlandia-Hiihto Worldloppet Races

Visit St. Petersburg, Russia

Post Trip Extension: Finnish Lapland

Come join us for the 2010 Worldloppet trip(s). Choose the options below that best fit your schedule and interest.

1. Estonia, St. Petersburg, Lahti February 16-March 1, 2010

Tentative Itinerary:

2/16-Tue: Depart the US for Helsinki and Tallinn

2/17-Wed: Upon arriving in Helsinki we transfer to the Silva Line “quay” to board the ship for our trip to Tallinn. Hotel accommodations w/breakfast in Tallinn.

2/18-Thu: Transfer to **Otepää**. We are staying at hotel *Bernhard*, located about 1.5K from the village center and ski stadium - start of the 63K race. A ski trail from the hotel connects with the trail system
Breakfasts and group dinners at the hotel.

2/18- 2/22 **Ski Otepää.**

Otepää, the winter capital of Estonia has hosted many Nordic World Cup Events. Otepää was a training venue for the Soviet National Team and the champion ship for the entire Soviet Union was held there in 1958.

2/20 Sat Half day tour by private motor coach to **Tartu** for the “*Worldloppet Masters*” reception, bib pick-up and a stroll around this old beautiful city.

2/21 Sun **Optional** participation in the **31K or 63K classic Tartu Maraton** www.tartumaraton.ee

2/22 Mo Early AM departure by private motor coach to **St. Petersburg, Russi** Sit back and relax while traveling through the rural areas of Estonia and Russia. Contrast between the two countries is striking.

2/23 Tue This morning we will have a guided bus tour of **St. Petersburg**. The rest of the day you are free to go back and explore some of the many museums, galleries, churches and other sights that are of most interest to you. In the evenings you may want to take in a performance at the *Mariinsky Theater*, a concert at one of the many churches or checking out some typical Russian night spots. Dinner on your own.

2/24 Wed More sightseeing – by now you will have discovered there is too much to see in too short a time. However, we are on a ski trip and if a small group of you would like to ski at **Toksovo** (located 20K north of St. Petersburg) we will organize transport. Dinner on your own.

2/25 Thu On to **Lahti, Finland**. We will join up with the “Finland Group” at *Alex Park Hotel* for dinner.

2/26 Fri Ski the Lahti trails, pick up your bibs and check out the town. Dinner on your own

2/27 Sat **Optional** participation in the **32K or 50K CLASSIC Finlandia- hiihto**
<http://finlandiahiihto.fi> Group dinner and celebration at the hotel

2/28 Sun **Optional** participation in the **20K(ladies and juniors) or 50K Free Style Race**
<http://finlandiahiihto.fi> Group dinner and more celebrations at the hotel.

3/1 Mon Transfer by private motor coach to Helsinki Airport and return to the US

OR continue to **Lapland** (see details below)

2. Lahti only - February 22-March 1, 2010

Tentative Itinerary:

- 2/21 Sun Depart the US for Helsinki, Finland
- 2/22 Mon Arrive Helsinki Airport and board the Airport bus (departing every hour) or train for the 1-1.5 hour ride to Lahti. Accommodations w/breakfast is at the *Alex Park Hotel* – the closest hotel to the Ski Stadium and start of the ***Finlandia Hiitho***
- Mon 2/22-
Sun 2/28 Ski your heart out on the famous Lahti trails.
- Lahti has hosted no less than six Nordic World Championships and numerous other world events. A visit to Sibelius Hall, home of the world renowned **Lahti Symphony Orchestra**, is highly recommended. The city is very “walk able” and you will find a good selection of restaurants and shops within walking distance from the hotel. Lahti is a University town and has several interesting museums.*
- 2/26 Thu Join the group arriving from St Petersburg for group dinner at the hotel
- 2/27 Sat *Optional* participation in the **32K or 50K CLASSIC Worldloppet Races**.
Group dinner and celebration at the hotel
- 2/28 Sun *Optional* participation in the **20K or 50K FREE Style Worldloppet Races**
Group dinner and celebration at the hotel
- 3/1 Mon Transfer to Helsinki Airport and return to the US
- OR continue to **Lapland** (see details below)

Lapland Extension - March 1-6, 2010

- 3/1 Mon Fly to *Ivalo* in Northern Finland – 250 km north of the Arctic Circle - and transfer to the “fell” village of **Saariselka** www.saariselka.fi
- 3/1-3/5 Hotel accommodations with breakfast and dinner is in the village of *Saariselka* and a short walk from a network of 200K of beautiful ski trails of which 35K are lighted. Some of the trails will take you through sparsely wooded areas where you may have to share the trail with a few reindeers. Other trails go to the “fells” where you will experience some great above timberline skiing. The “fells” are rounded mountains of no more than 1500 feet, but this far north they are above timberline. Don’t forget to watch the northern skies in the evenings; you may be lucky enough to experience some fabulous Aurora Borealis shows. Other *optional* activities you may enjoy while in Sami Country includes: *Reindeer Safari* or Dog Sledding. What about spending a night in a glass igloo? How Romantic? And what a place to see the Northern Lights!
- 3/5 Fri We fly back to Helsinki where we spend the night in a hotel near the airport After parking all the gear at the hotel you may want to take the train in to the city for dinner and/or to check out the downtown area and it’s night life.
- 3/6 Sat Return to the US

Costs and Payment Schedules

Estimated Costs

Estonia, St. Petersburg, Lahti 2/16-3/1, 2010

Approximately \$3,000-3,100 (+Airport taxes and fuel/security surcharges in effect at the time of ticketing).

Costs are based on double occupancy and include: Airfare MSP-Helsinki--MSP, transfers Helsinki Airport-Tallinn-Otepaa-St. Petersburg-Lahti-Helsinki Airport, half day trip to Tartu. One night lodging w/breakfast in Tallinn, four nights lodging with breakfast and dinner in Otepaa, three nights lodging with breakfast in St. Petersburg, four nights lodging w/breakfast + three group dinners in Lahti, Passport voucher fee in Russia, Half-day sight seeing tour of St. Petersburg

Not included in the trip costs are: Airport/custom taxes, airline imposed fuel or security surcharges, Airline luggage fees, cost of passports and Russian visa, travel insurance premium, all items of a personal nature including wine, beer, liquor, soda, mineral water, room service, laundry, telephone/faxes local transportation unless stated, race registrations and race transportation, optional sight seeing excursions and entrance fees, additional costs related to airline delays and cancellations. Extraordinary costs related to emergency, accidents, lost luggage and cancelled or delayed flights are the sole responsibility of the participant and/or their travel insurance plan

Payment Schedule (Estonia, St. Petersburg, Lahti)

Deposit of \$500/person is due with registration.

\$1,200 due by 10/15/09 (Add \$500 if you are doing the Lapland extension)

Balance due by 1/1/10

Lahti only 2/22-3/1, 2010

Approximately 1700-1800(+Airport taxes and fuel/security surcharges in effect at the time of ticketing).

Costs are based on double occupancy and include: Airfare MSP-Helsinki--MSP. Seven nights lodging w/breakfasts + three group dinners in Lahti, Transfer from Lahti to Helsinki Airport

Bus or Train transfer from Helsinki to Lahti is NOT included as it is simpler for you to purchase the ticket at the railroad station or from the bus driver after you arrive.

Payment Schedule (Finland only)

Deposit of \$500/person is due with registration.

\$1,000 due by 10/15/09 (Add \$500 if you are doing the Lapland extension)

Balance due by 1/1/10

Lapland Post Trip Option 3/1-3/6,2010

Approximately \$1,100-1200

Cost is based on double occupancy and includes: Airfare Helsinki-Ivalo-Helsinki, transfer Ivalo-Saariselka-Ivalo, four nights lodging w/breakfast and buffet dinners in Saariselka.

Not included in the trip costs are: Airport/custom taxes, airline imposed fuel or security surcharges, Airline luggage fees, cost of passport, Russian visa, travel insurance premium, all items of a personal nature including wine, beer, liquor, soda, mineral water, room service, laundry, telephone/faxes, local transportation unless stated, trail fees, race registrations and race transportation, optional sight seeing excursions and entrance fees, additional costs related to airline delays and cancellations. Extraordinary costs related to emergency, accidents, lost luggage and cancelled or delayed flights are the sole responsibility of the participant and/or their travel insurance plan

Cancellation and Refund Policy:

Cancellation prior to 10/15/09: Full Refund

Cancellation 10/16/09-1/1/10: \$ 1,700 is NON-refundable.

Cancellation after 1/1/10: No Refund

Passport and /Visa.

You will need a valid passport that does not expire till six months after your return.
There is no visa requirement for Estonia and Finland

Visa for Russia.

If you are going to St. Petersburg you will need a visa. As soon as I receive the trip registrations and a copy of the passport from everybody going to Russia I will give the hotel a list of names, and passport information. They will then issue the "passport vouchers" which you will need to apply for the visas. You may do that on line. I will contact you with further information.

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you purchase trip insurance before leaving the US. Remember, you may at times be away from roads and medical facilities. Minor injuries could become expensive if you need help getting to a doctor or hospital. Unused accommodations and other costs are contracted for in advance and not refundable when cancelled at a late date. Check your own health and home owner's policy to learn what they cover, and then check and compare different travel insurance companies. Here are some E-Mail addresses and phone numbers to get you started. We do not endorse any insurance company over another. Do your home work and read the fine print! *Please NOTE. Some insurance companies may have a clause that preexisting medical conditions are excluded unless you purchase your insurance within 7 days of your initial deposit*

Access America	1-800-284-8300	www.accessamerica.com
Travel Guard	1-800-826-4919	www.travelguard.com ,
Travelex	1-888-407-5404	www.travelex.com

Luggage

Luggage and weight limitations are constantly changing. You most likely should expect a luggage charge. We will watch for the most recent regulations as we get closer to the departure date.

Contact: Solveig Olson E-mail solveigjolson@gmail.com Phone 612-377-2483

TRIP REGISTRATION

Name _____

Passport name _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (h): _____ Cell _____ Email: _____

Passport name of additional person(s) who will be traveling with you:

Please sign me/us up for the following options

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Estonia, St. Petersburg, Lahti | 2/16-3/1, 2010 _____ |
| 2. Lahti only | 2/22-3/1, 2010 _____ |
| 3. Lapland Extension | 3/1-3/6, 2010 _____ |

Do you plan to ski any of these *optional* races:

Tartu Maraton (2/21) _____
Finlandia Hiihto (2/27 and/or 2/28) _____

Do you have any physical or medical limitations in regards to the physical activities of the trip(s)? _____

Do you have any dietary restrictions? _____

Emergency name and phone _____

Deposit of \$500 per person must be enclosed to secure reservation:

Please make check(s) payable to **Peer Gynt World Ventures** and mail to:

Solveig Olson, 1177 Cedar View Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55405

If you are going to St.Petersburg please include a copy of your passport.

Responsibility and Waiver:

I understand and agree that Peer Gynt World Ventures, Solveig and John Olson and other trip leaders act only as organizers for the contractors providing transportation, lodging and other services. All tickets and vouchers are issued subject to any and all terms and conditions under which the transportation and services are offered or provided and constitute the sole contract between the supplier and the tour member. Peer Gynt World Ventures, its owners and trip leaders shall not be responsible in any way for loss, injury or damage arising from an Act of God, Acts of Governments or de facto authority, war, civil unrest, any kind of hostilities, strikes, thefts, sickness, quarantine, customs and immigration regulations, hijacking, breakdown, delay, cancellation error, omissions or any other cause consequences of the personal activities of any tour participant, who as a consenting adult is deemed personally responsible for decision concerning conditions of health, safety and fitness for any activity in which the tour member participate. Peer Gynt World Ventures reserves the right without advanced notice to make changes or cancellations, in part or in whole, as circumstances dictate, which may include changes in accommodations.

I have read, understand and agree to the terms and conditions on this page and the "Approximate Itinerary" accompanying this page. Enclosed is my (our) deposit.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____