

The era of the Romanovs is best seen when we take you for a private VIP visit to the presidential Mariinsky Palace, designed by Bartholomew Rastrelli and formerly the principal Romanov Family palace in Kiev. This palace is not open to the public and will be opened for you alone. Another memory of the Romanovs will be in the evening when you take a seat for a performance of opera, ballet or a symphony at the Kiev Opera House.

If you know your film history, then Odessa will bring to mind the famous scene in Sergei Eisenstein's film *Battleship Potemkin* – the panic and flight of the crowd running down the 192 Potemkin Steps. The steps are still there, but you can take them more slowly.

Odessa is, of course, famous for being an ancient sea port, and it is this that has given the city its character. We take you on a visit to the Archaeological Museum of Odessa, with its collection of items that were excavated on the Black Sea coast. We also show you Odessa's various temples of worship; as a cross-roads of cultures and an important gateway to the Black Sea, Odessa has embraced many different faiths over the centuries.

No visit to a port city can be complete without a boat ride around the harbour. Weather permitting, this will give you an insight into Odessa as it looked to many previous civilizations.

WE SUGGEST:

Two nights in Kiev and Two nights in Odessa. Private tour of the **Mariinsky Palace in Kiev.** Private tour of the Fine Arts Museum in Odessa

