



WHV-MT/16

## “Country Estates in St-Petersburg Region – it’s the World Heritage sites”

Dates: 18.07- 29.07

Lang.: English/Russian

Age: 18-30

Volunteers: 10

Type: Heritage/Cult/Envi Location: Saint Petersburg/Leningrad Region



**PROJECT:** The host organization NGO “Mir tesen” is the associated member of Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS)/UNESCO <http://www.ccivs.org/> since 2012. World Heritage of St-Petersburg (“Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg and Related Groups Monuments”) consists not only of well-known historical center of St. Petersburg, palaces and park ensembles of its suburbs, but also a little known historical part Imperial country estates and other historical and cultural monuments (link <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/540> ).

Country Estates of the St-Petersburg region were built in 18- 19 centuries. Among the owners there were members of the royal family and famous statesmen, military leaders, artists, composers, architects, writers. International volunteers will work in the WH site “Palace and Park Ensemble” (18-19 centuries) in the village Gostilitsy, situated 67 km far from St-Petersburg (Lomonosov District, Leningrad region). One side, the WH monument is under serious threat of destruction. On the other hand, it has a very long and rich history. *Empress Elizabeth is often visited this place for royal hunting.* The Country Estate in the village Gostilitsy has a unique park of 85 hectares.

**WORK:** Under supervision of local experts the volunteers will be engaged in improving the park: take care of plantation of trees, mow the meadows, cure the trees, clean the hollows, sweep the grounds, cleaning them out of the garbage, create information panels about the WH site; improve the paths around the Palace. Part-time volunteers to help set up and equip a special house for the volunteers in close proximity to the palace (to paint the walls and windows, install equipment bed, hang posters of the cultural heritage), will help build an outdoor kitchen and other.

Few days volunteers will visit and work in some other World Heritage sites near St-Petersburg: Tsarskoye Selo, Gatchina, I. Repin Estate “The Penates”, Ensemble of the Orthodox Monastery of St. Sergius and others.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Host organisation provides a basic condition accommodation and food in St-Petersburg and in Leningrad region. Volunteers will live in wooden house or in the local school in the village Gostilitsy. Weekend volunteers will live in St-Petersburg.

**LEISURE TIME:** St-Petersburg is a cultural capital of Russia. Volunteers will have an opportunity to visit numerous museums, theatres, galleries and exhibitions, country residences of Emperors, Grand Princes and grandees: Peterhof – city of fountains ([www.peterhofmuseum.ru](http://www.peterhofmuseum.ru)), Lomonosov, Tsarskoye Selo ([www.tzar.ru](http://www.tzar.ru)), Pavlovsk ([www.pavlovskmuseum.ru](http://www.pavlovskmuseum.ru)) and just restored palace in Gatchina. Also at this time of the year, the city hosts a variety of festivals, concerts and folk events. Each year millions of tourists come to St.Petersburg for walking at night along the Neva River, watching the bridges raise.. Meeting with local people and evenings of international cuisine will be organized, so it would be great if volunteers bring their traditional recipes and food. A group of international volunteers together with local youth will prepare a performance for promote the WH site. Volunteers will prepare the historical reconstruction of the events of the 18-19th centuries. It might be the mysterious fortunes of famous persons.

**LOCATION:** St. Petersburg/Leningrad region. **TERMINAL:** Pulkovo International Airport is located about 17 km from the St.Petersburg center. We know that some of the volunteers have problems with the high cost of tickets to Saint Petersburg. We can recommend them to find economy flights not to St. Petersburg, but to Riga or Helsinki or other Finland city. It is a very short way from Riga or Helsinki to our city not only by plane, but also by bus or train.

**SPECIAL REMARKS:** The project will have a study part. Volunteers are supposed to prepare presentations for local community about the ways (model) of preservations World Heritage sites in their home countries. Also volunteers will discuss about importance of preserving the flora and fauna of the parks as green heritage in the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. The workshop will be organized devoted to the World Heritage. Volunteers are supposed to prepare presentations about World Heritage sites in their home countries. Volunteers should bring working clothes, gloves and sleeping bags. The museums fees and local transport expenses aren't going to be covered, volunteers will have to pay on their own. However, due to the euro-ruble currency this year the journey will be rather cheap. We ask volunteers to send us motivation letters. **EXTRA FEE:** 40 Euro.

