

08 November 2010

Dear Parents and Pupils,

‘Living under Soviet Rule’ History Trip to Latvia and Lithuania - Easter 2012

Following on from highly successful trips to the USA and Cuba in recent years, for Easter 2012 the History Department is planning to run an exciting and innovative trip to two of the Baltic republics, Latvia and Lithuania, that were both part of the USSR until the collapse of the Soviet Union at the end of the Cold War. These countries offer fascinating and affordable chances to visit countries with plenty to offer by way of history, politics and culture. The trip will be six days long running from Sunday 15 April to Friday 20 April 2012, flying out to Kaunas in Lithuania and returning from Riga the capital of Latvia, with internal travel by coach. This will be in the final week of the Easter holidays. Accommodation will be in decent tourist standard hotels on a half board basis with some lunches included.

Both countries offer a unique and relatively unknown range of historical sites which link in very well with aspects of both the GCSE and Late Modern A Level/IB History courses, which cover the Russian dictatorships and the Cold War. Among the sites we expect to visit are:

- A former Soviet underground bunker
- The Hill of Crosses
- Grutas Park (also nicknamed Stalinworld)
- Rundale Palace
- Karnosta Naval Prison (allegedly more secure than Alcatraz)
- KGB Museum in Vilnius
- Trokai Castle
- Fort IX at Kaunas (which served as both a Nazi concentration camp and a Soviet Gulag)

There will also be some free time for shopping in Riga and Vilnius, taking advantage of the lower prices still present in these ex-Soviet bloc nations. A Power Point of some of these sites may be viewed by clicking on the link on the home page of the History VLE page.

This promises to be a fascinating and rewarding trip, and is open to all historians and politics students in Year 10 and above, and those in the current Year 9 who plan to take History GCSE. Places are limited to 40 and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please apply early to avoid disappointment!



To: Mr S Lemieux, History Dept, The Portsmouth Grammar School, High Street, Portsmouth, Hants

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Pupil Name _____ Year/Tutor _____

History Teacher _____

I wish to reserve a place for my son/daughter on the above trip. I enclose a cheque for £100 as a non refundable deposit.

Signed: _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian)

The estimated inclusive cost will be in the range of £475-£525 which covers flights, airport transfers, accommodation on a half board basis, insurance, some lunches and all entrances fees. As both nations are in the EU, there are no visa requirements although pupils will require a valid UK/EU passport by the time of departure. The cost is approximate since finalised costs for flights are not yet available. In the very unlikely event that the final cost exceeds the top end of the price range, parents will be given the option of the return of the otherwise non-refundable deposit.

If you wish your son/daughter to participate in the trip please complete the reply slip below and return it along with a non-refundable deposit cheque of £100 (payable to PGS), to Mr Lemieux.

Also please feel free to contact me at school should you have any queries or questions.

Yours sincerely

S Lemieux
Head of History and Politics