

## 2011 Luxury Russian River Cruise

### MS Volga Dream



### Program highlights

We invite you to embark on a journey of your lifetime, on one of the most incredible river cruises imagined, on a cruise that will take you from St. Petersburg to Moscow aboard the most luxurious ship on Russian rivers.

**Travel dates:** June 9, 2011 – June 19, 2011 (departure from USA June 2, 2011)

**Travellers: 2**

### Included in the price:

- Full Russian visa processing service that includes a) Russian visa invitation, b) visa itself, c) visa mailing and handling fees by the Russian Consulate, and d) arrival registration (a \$560 value per couple)\*;
- Two airport transfers on arrival and departure (a \$200 value per couple); transfers by private bus for tours in the itinerary;
- 10 nights accommodations: 2 nights in a first class St. Petersburg hotel ("Angleterre hotel"), 6 nights aboard the MS Volga Dream in an outside stateroom, 2 nights at a Superior First-Class Moscow hotel ("Hotel Marriott Aurora Royal");
- Port fees, fuel surcharges and baggage handling (where available);
- Breakfasts, lunches and dinners on board
- House wine and soft beverages on board
- 10 sightseeing tours with professional English-speaking guides (a \$1500 value per couple);
- Museum entrance fees for tours in the itinerary;
- Rich on-board entertainment program that includes lessons on Russian language, history and culture;
- 5% Travel Credit received upon your return to use towards your next package tour or cruise booked with us.

### Our customers

"First let me say thank you once again for all of your organizing you must be such an asset to your company. The cruise was fantastic we had such a good time." - Roy Curtis, Australia

"We were just so impressed with how we were treated, how welcomed we were in this amazing country." - Ann Presti, Canada

"We had a wonderful trip and would like to say thank you to you and your staff. Everything was very well organized and the entire trip went smoothly." - Sharon & Jim Moos, USA

"Let me tell you it was probably the best trip I have taken and we go away 3 times per year, it exceeded our expectations by 300%." - Brian & Barbara Simpson, Canada

"I would highly recommend your services for this cruise, or any other tours they have available" - Dave Abbey, USA



## Discover Russia with the Volga Dream



### The Ship: **MS Volga Dream**

Volga Dream is the most luxurious ships on Russian rivers. It carries 109 passengers and 60 crew members on the most popular route from Moscow to St. Petersburg.

Ship facilities include the following: single seating dining room with rich choice of Russian and European dishes, Neva Lounge with AV equipment, Wi-Fi and bar with live music, Ladoga bar with Plantation Teak Deck Furniture, library, tea and coffee station (24 hours), boutique with folk craft items, barbers & hair dresser, fitness center, sauna and massage room, laundry and first aid.

Each cabin is equipped with air conditioning, mini-bar, safety deposit box, telephone, and flat screen television featuring international satellite programming and films as well as various radio and music channel options.



Jr. Suite



Main Deck



Excellence  
on the Russian Waterways





## **Cruise Program/Itinerary**

### **Day 1: Arrival to St. Petersburg**

Today you will arrive in St. Petersburg, and will be met by your driver. Once you've picked up your luggage and passed through customs you will find him waiting for you with a sign that has your name on it. The rest of the day is given to you to relax and restore yourself after your long flight.

Transfer to hotel Angleterre.

### **Day 2: The Hermitage**

St. Petersburg is Russia's cultural and historical treasure, one of the world's most beautiful cities, and one of its top ten tourist destinations according to "The Forbes Traveler." It is known as the Venice of North thanks to its numerous canals and hundreds of bridges. It is sometimes called Russia's Versailles thanks to dozens of opulent palaces and royal estates. It can be rightly called a living museum - so many of its buildings are part of Russia's history.

They say that if you were to spend three minutes by each of the exhibits in the Hermitage, it would've taken you three years to see the Hermitage. But don't worry - you will have an experienced guide, who will show you the best rooms and halls in just 2 hours.

- This day we will visit Hermitage, one of the world's biggest art galleries

### **Day 3: Peterhof**

This day is reserved for the trip outside of the city, to Peterhof - royal residence on the outskirts of the city where Russian Tsars spend most of their time during warm time of the year. Peterhof is located on the banks of Gulf of Finland most famous for its parks and fountains that mimic those of Versailles. Peter the Great spent most of his time in this place because it was close to the wharfs where Peter was raising Russian navy. Peter build hundreds of fountains to entertain his noble guests, including you.

- Tour of Peterhof Parks
- Bus city tour to St. Basil Island, The Building of Exchange, Peters and Paul Fortress (outside), Rostrum Columns, Nevskiy prospect, Isaac Cathedral (outside), Cathedral of Savior (outside)

Transfer to cruise ship Volga Dream.

This evening you will start your exciting river journey on the MS Volga Dream. Bon Voyage!

#### **Day 4: Mandrogi**

Mandrogi is the name of a small village that has no architectural wonders, giant castles or churches. You will, however, discover the unique style and architecture of the northern tribes that have occupied these lands for centuries.

- Here among beautiful landscapes of this peaceful place we will have a picnic ashore with a Russian famous shashlik (meat kebab) made on the grill.
- You will have free time to stroll around the town and buy some souvenirs.

#### **Day 5: Kizhi Island**

Kizhi is the name of unique island located on the Lake Onega. In the center of the island stands the amazing Transfiguration Church. This wooden church and its 22 domes are built without a single nail. In fact, originally, the Transfiguration Church was located in another place. The Bolsheviks, who had little, if no, respect for religion, had some respect for its architectural value, so they decided to move this unique church as far from the major cities and people as possible, to distant Kizhi Island.

- You will devote this day on the island to the open-air museum of wooden architecture

#### **Day 6: Goritsy**

Goritsy is famous for the Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery (1397). This monastery's strong walls and bastions were used by some nobles as a safe house during the Times of Trouble. The Polish armies stormed it, but never succeeded in capturing it. Unfortunately, the monastery was not so successful in repelling the attacks of other invaders four centuries later. The Bolsheviks closed the monastery in early 20th century and sent its monks to the prison camps.

On your walking tour around the small town you will go inside of local Monastery of St. Cyril on the White Lake and exceptional museum of icons.

#### **Day 7: Yaroslavl**

By today standards Yaroslavl is small, but its place in Russia's history and culture cannot be underestimated. Before it was annihilated by the Mongols it was Russia's largest city, its economic, political, cultural and scientific center. It was rebuilt shortly after but was once again burnt to the ground. While the Mongols had been preoccupied with Yaroslavl, Moscow was able to harness enough power to overthrow the "Mongol yoke."

During the Polish occupation of Moscow in the early 17th century, it was Yaroslavl once again that became the center of the national resistance to the occupation.

- You will explore this town on Volga river by bus with stops in St. Nikolas the Wonderworker, Governor's House art gallery, and Church of Elijah Prophet

#### **Day 8: Uglich**

Uglich is a small town located on the Volga River. Uglich was the best-defended fortress of Moscow and it was burnt on number of occasions by Lithuanians, Tatars, and even the grand prince of Tver, the city which rivaled Moscow.

Uglich is most famous for the tragic events that took place in 1591 when the 10-year old prince Dimitry, the last heir to the throne of the ancient Rurik dynasty, was killed here (as historians now agree, by Boris Godunov, advisor to Dimitry, who wanted the throne for himself). Dimitry's death plunged Russia into decades of political turmoil known as Time of Trouble.

- You will discover the town on a walking tour with visit to the Kremlin, Transfiguration Cathedral, and church of St. Dmitry on the blood

### **Day 9: Arrival to Moscow**

Moscow is Russia's largest city, its political and economic capital. The town of Moscow was the center of Muscovy - a small principality that unified the Russian lands against the Mongols in the late 14th century and has ruled Russia ever since. As the Mongols burnt major cities across Russia, refugees fled to smaller principalities like Moscow, Tver and Nizhny Novgorod. Through bribes, diplomacy and coercion, Moscow overcame its two rivals to become "Russia's first city." Moscow's role was briefly challenged when Tsar Peter the Great moved Russia's capital to his new city, St Petersburg, on the shores of the Baltic Sea.

This day you will explore Red Square, the most famous square in the world located in the very heart of Moscow next to the Kremlin. Red Square together with the surrounding buildings is the most well known symbol of Russia. You will have a whole afternoon to explore this amazing place.

- This day is dedicated to exploring Moscow on a bus city tour including sights: Red Square, Leningradskaya and Tverskaya streets, Novodevichiy Convent (exterior), Park of Fallen Idols, GUM and Cathedral of Christ the Savior (all outside views)
- Tour of Tretyakov Gallery

Transfer to hotel Marriott Aurora Royal.

### **Day 10: Kremlin**

This day is very special, as we will go inside the Kremlin - the ancient castle built to withstand the Mongol hordes. Throughout history, the Kremlin has been the center of political power in Russia and it remains a symbolic political center even today, as the official site of the inauguration ceremony of the Russian president (they don't actually live or work here).

The Kremlin is a living museum of Russia's history. Its inside wasn't built overnight, rather various rulers added new pieces over time (and some, like Napoleon, plundered from it). This cultural and historical treasure has been so well preserved that it seems that you are traveling in time. You will see the most interesting places in the Kremlin as you follow our professional guide in the steps of some of the world's greatest leaders and its most terrible dictators.

- Excursion of Kremlin and one cathedral
- Tour inside of Armory Chamber

### **Day 11: Departure from Moscow**

This is the last day of your terrific journey across Russia by way of its majestic rivers. It's time to say goodbye to your new friends from the ship and we hope you'll come back soon!

When you leave the ship, don't forget to look for your name, which will be held by your driver, who waits for you, ready to take you to the airport.