

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 Moscow to St. Petersburg aboard the most luxurious ship on Russian rivers.

Travel dates: May 16 – May 26, 2011 (departure from USA May 15, 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: aboard the MS Volga Dream in an outside stateroom;
- 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

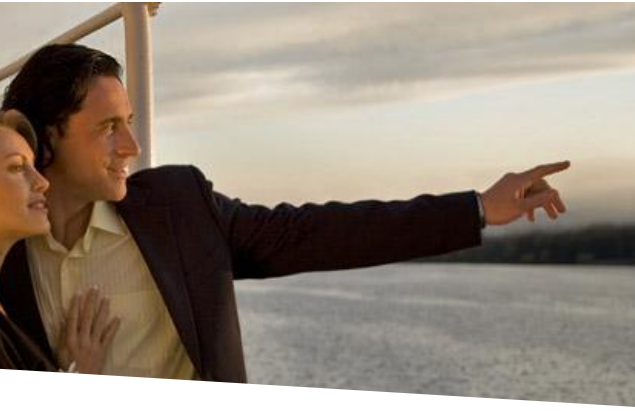
"First let me say thank you once again for all of your organizing you must be such an asset to your company. The cruise was fantastic we had such a good time." - Roy Curtis, Australia

"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 Moscow

Today you will arrive in Moscow, 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 the MS Volga Dream

Day 2: Moscow - The Kremlin

The first day of your tour is special because we will take you inside the ancient citadel built to withstand the Mongol hordes -- the majestic Kremlin. Throughout history, the Kremlin has been the center of political power in Russia and today it still has symbolic significance, as the official site of the inauguration ceremony of the Russian president.

The Kremlin is a living museum of Russia's history, built slowly over time, as various rulers gradually added new pieces to it. This cultural and historical treasure has been so well preserved that it seems like you are traveling through time as your guide takes you to the most interesting places in the Kremlin -- following the footsteps of some of Russia's greatest leaders and terrible dictators.

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

Day 3: Moscow - The Red Square

This morning check-out of your hotel and depart on a visit to the Tretyakov Art Gallery which has the biggest collection of Russian art – from early icons to Russian avant-garde works of the XXth century.

After lunch at a local restaurant continue on your sightseeing tour which will include the magnificent Red Square with its famous landmark, St. Basil's domed cathedral, a colorful multi-domed complex whose architects were supposedly blinded by Ivan the Terrible so that they could never recreate such splendor again.

Continue on a city sightseeing tour which will include such sites as Cathedral of Christ the Savior, the Park of Fallen Idols and Novodevichy memorial cemetery.

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

Day 4: Uglich

The first stop on your river tour is the small town of Uglich, located on the banks of the beautiful Volga River. Throughout history it was burned down on a number of occasions by its rivals inside and out of Russia -- including the Lithuanians, the Tatars, and even by the grand prince of Tver -- the city which rivaled Moscow.

Yet, Uglich is devoted to the memory of the tragic events that took place there in 1591, when the 10-year old prince Dimitry -- the last heir to the throne of the ancient Ruyrik dynasty -- was killed there by Boris Godunov, his advisor, who wanted the throne for himself. This tragic event threw Russia into decades of political turmoil known as the Times of Trouble. To commemorate the significance of this event, a church -- the Church of St. Dimitry on the Blood -- was built there, and this beautiful church will be one of the first things you see when you sail in by ship.

- You will discover this town on a walking tour, with a visit to the Kremlin, the Transfiguration Cathedral, and the Church of St. Dimitry on the Blood

Day 5: Yaroslavl

By today's standards the lovely Yaroslavl is small, but its place in Russia's history and culture cannot be underestimated. Before it was annihilated by the Mongols it was the center of culture and politics and Russia's largest city. It was rebuilt shortly after its destruction, but was once again destroyed. However, while the Mongols were preoccupied with Yaroslavl, Moscow was growing in size and power -- due to Yaroslavl's fleeing population, and eventually it was able to harness enough power to overthrow the "Mongol yoke."

- You will explore Yaroslavl by bus, with stops in St. Nicolas the Wonderworker, the Governor's House art gallery, and the Church of Elijah Prophet

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: Kizhi Island

Today we will bring you to Kizhi Island. This remote and unique island is located on Lake Onega and is home to the spectacular Transfiguration Church. With 22 domes, this fascinating wooden church was built without a single nail! The Transfiguration Church originated off the island, but during the Bolshevik's administration they had it moved as far away from civilization as possible. The Bolshevik's would have otherwise destroyed it, just as they did with many other churches over the past century, but they could not deny its architectural value so Kizhi Island became this magnificent church's new home.

- This day will be devoted to the open-air museum of wooden architecture, located on the island

Day 8: Mandrogi

Mandrogi is the name of a small, humble village in Russia. We'll be visiting it in order to discover its unique style of architecture and to discover the interesting culture of the northern tribes that have occupied these lands for centuries.

- Here, surrounded by the beautiful landscapes of this peaceful place, we will go ashore and have a picnic, where you will try Russia's famous shashlik (meat kebab), made on the grill.
- You will also have free time to stroll around the town and buy some authentic souvenirs.

Day 9: St. Petersburg & Peterhof

Welcome to St. Petersburg! The Venice of the North! Your first day in St. Petersburg will be devoted to the palace Peterhof. Located on the banks of the Gulf of Finland, on the outskirts of St. Petersburg, Peterhof was the royal summer residence for the Czars. Peter the Great spent most of his time here because it was near the wharfs where he was building his mighty navy, and he had hundreds of spectacular fountains and beautiful parks built on the property in order to entertain and impress his noble guests -- which now includes you!

- Included is a tour of Peterhof Parks
- Also included is a bus city tour to St. Basil Island, The Building of Exchange, the Peter and Paul Fortress (exterior), Rostrum Columns, Nevsky Prospect, St. Isaac's Cathedral (exterior), and the Church of the Savior on Blood (exterior)

Day 10: St. Petersburg - The Hermitage

The beautiful St. Petersburg is Russia's cultural and historical treasure and according to The Forbes Traveler, it's one of the top ten tourist destinations in the world. Its impressive beauty comes from its numerous canals, hundreds of bridges, and its dozens of opulent palaces and royal estates. St. Petersburg can rightly be called a living museum because so much of this city is a significant part of Russia's history. This day will be focused on the gigantic Hermitage museum. The Hermitage museum is located in one of the most well-known palaces of St. Petersburg, called the Winter Palace. After the reign of the Czars, the palace was converted into a museum and it has one of the largest collections of art and artifacts in the world. They say that if you were to spend three minutes in each of the exhibits in the Hermitage, it would take you three years to see the entire museum! But don't worry because we've given you an experienced guide to help you make the most out of the best exhibits within just 2 hours.

Day 11: Departure from St. Petersburg

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.