

# EXETER

INTERNATIONAL



## Simply Volga Dream

### *Moscow to St Petersburg*

*Since the reign of Peter the Great, sailing the waterways of Russia was a regular feature of the lives of the Romanovs. The Imperial yacht Standart, of Nicholas II, was so elegant and so well appointed that she was the envy of every monarch in Europe.*

*In keeping with this grand tradition, Exeter International's Waterways of the Tsars allows guests to explore the ancient villages of rural Russia as the Romanovs did, in complete luxury and comfort. Envision enjoying this voyage from the deck of a fabulous riverboat as it glides through the lakes, rivers and canals that connect Moscow and St Petersburg. Its twilight on the sun deck and the fairytale villages of Russia are but feet from your window.*

## Day 1

### *Moscow*

Afternoon arrival into Moscow. Your driver and guide will be waiting for you outside of customs and baggage claim to transfer you to the river port for boarding of the Volga Dream. Your cabin key will be issued to you at the reception of the boat as you board. Once onboard the ship, you will have time to settle into your cabin and explore before dinner this evening.



Transfer Only

## Day 2

### *Moscow*

This morning we will meet our guide for a walking tour of the Kremlin, through its expansive grounds. Here we will see the largest bell in the world – as well as the largest canon. Neither were ever used due to their enormous size.



Later, our guide will take us to the famed Armoury Museum, including its vast collection of Imperial Russian artwork. We will have the opportunity to see the Kremlin's unique and intimate collection of Imperial Faberge Easter Eggs. Also in the Armoury are many of the most important Imperial thrones and crowns, including the most historic, Cap of Monomachus.

The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.

## Half Day of Touring

## Day 3

### *Moscow*

This morning we will meet our guide for a walking tour through Red Square. Our guide will show us the stunning St. Basil's Cathedral. This magnificent church-museum was commissioned by Ivan the Terrible and was completed in 1561.

Rumour has it that Ivan had the architect blinded so he would never be able to design anything as exquisite again.



Today our guide will take us into the enormous and only recently completed Christ the Holy Redeemer Cathedral. This church was demolished under Stalin's rule and completely rebuilt by Mayor Luzhkov of Moscow in 2001- at the budget of over 350 million dollars. It is a beautiful cathedral and it now stands as it did at the turn of the 20th Century.

We will have a brief overview driving tour of the city before driving to the south the city to Novodevichy Cemetery housing the graves of many famous Russians, from cultural figures to political and military dignitaries. Each tombstone is wrought with symbolism and makes for a very interesting and worthwhile visit.

This afternoon our guide will take us through the Tretyakov Gallery, which houses only Russian artists - from Andrei Rublev's icons to famous 20th Century Russian painters. A must for the first time visitor the vast gallery houses a fine collection of Russian art - icons, mosaics, paintings and sculpture dating from medieval times to the 19th century. Founded by Pavel Tretyakov, a 19th-century industrialist and art collector, the gallery is based in his mansion on the south side of the river.

Tonight we depart by Volga Dream to begin our journey on the Russian waterways. We will enjoy scenic views of the Moscow - Volga man-made canal as the ship sails off from Moscow.

### **Full Day of Touring**

## Day 4

### *Uglich*

Today, upon arrival in Uglich we will enjoy a walking tour of this charming town. Founded in 1148, Uglich is one of the most beloved towns in old Russia. As we approach the town by river, the view of the town is especially lovely with the Cathedral of the Resurrection and St. John's Church looming on the horizon. This delightful town retains much of its original charm in the form of historic wooden architecture and elegant cathedrals, including the famed Tsarevitch Church that was built in memory of Ivan the Terrible's son, who died mysteriously on this site.



### Half Day of Touring

## Day 5

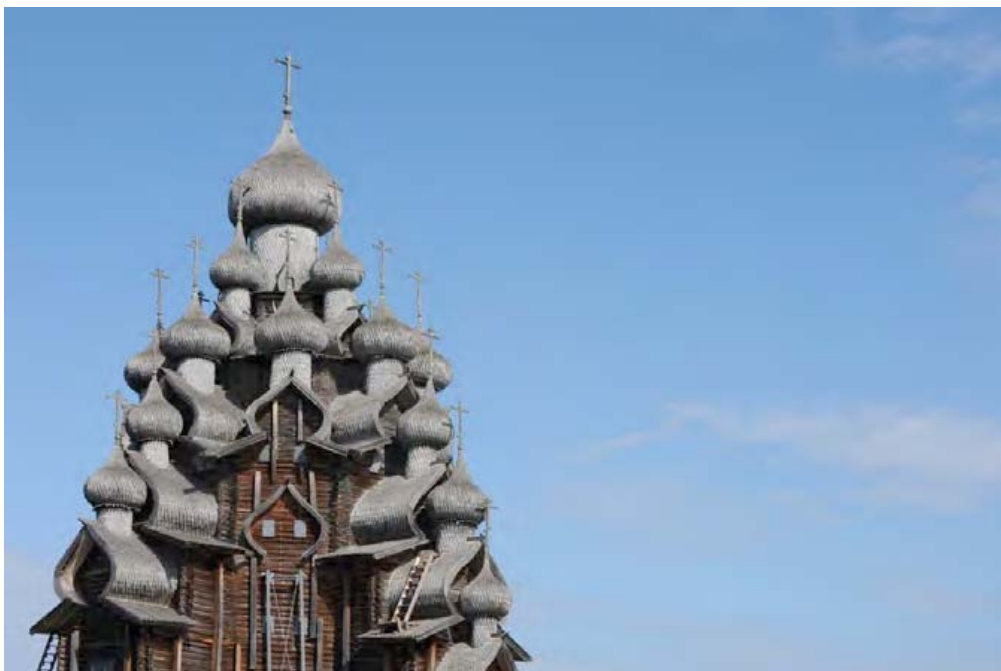
### *Yaroslavl*

Yaroslavl is a large river port stretching along the banks of the Volga River. Yaroslav Mudry (the Wise) founded the city in 1010. It was a large centre of trade and crafts in the 17th century. It is famous all over Russia for its textiles in the old tradition.

Yaroslavl belongs to the "Golden Ring" cities of Russia and it's one of the largest centres of Russian architecture and arts of the 13th - 17th centuries. Today we will tour this city's historical and architectural monuments.



Half Day of Touring



## **Day 6**

### *Goritzky*

As we continue our journey, we will enjoy the breathtaking scenery as we sail through the White Lake and through the Volga-Baltic Canal. The canal was constructed by those who were political prisoners during the Stalin regime. When we arrive in Goritzky we will visit the historic Kiril-Beloserskiy Men's Monastery founded in 1397. Here we will discover its rich history and magnificent architecture.

### **Half Day of Touring**

## **Day 7**

### *Kizhi Island*

Our riverboat next takes us by the way of the Volga-Baltic Waterway to the tiny island of Kizhi, located at the northern end of Lake Onega. We will visit the Open-Air Museum with traditional culture of Russians in Zaonejie. Next we will have a walking tour visiting Architectural ensemble; House of Schepin and Elizarov; Chapel of Michael Archangel; Church of Lasar Resurrection and the Church of Pokrov.

### **Half Day of Touring**

## **Day 8**

### *Mandrogi*

Today after lunch, we will enjoy a tour through the quaint village of Mandrogi. The town is a recreation of a traditional Russian village complete with old wooden houses and villagers handcrafting matryoshka dolls, lace and ceramics.

### **Half Day of Touring**

## **Day 9**

### *St Petersburg*

Today we will head out to Peter the Great's summer palace, Peterhof, to see first-hand the palace's countless fountains and gardens. Peterhof Palace (or Petrodvorets in Russian) is often called the Russian Versailles due to the prominence of the gardens and fountains. The view from the palace through

the grand colonnade of fountains to the Baltic Sea is one of the true masterpieces of Russian artistry. This stately palace overlooks the gardens and smaller palaces, as well as the Baltic Sea. After the tour we will return by bus to St Petersburg for lunch on board the ship.



This afternoon we will enjoy a city tour to get us acquainted with Peter the Great's "Venice of the North." We will begin at the Peter Paul Fortress: the birthplace of St Petersburg. As Peter's original outpost against the Swedes, St Petersburg was born from this fortress and its historical significance is felt to this day by the presence of every Romanov tomb from Peter the Great. On the other side of the fortress you can see the dark side of the reign of the Romanov tsars: the Imperial prison. The dark, cold halls of the prison that housed everyone from Peter the Great's first son to many of the Bolshevik revolutionaries, contrasts starkly against the gilded church of the Romanov royal family.

Next your guide will take you to visit the Church on Spilled Blood on Canal Griboyedova. This is the only church in the world covered completely inside and out by mosaics of tiles and precious and semi-precious stones. Modelled on St Basil's Cathedral in Red Square, but built much later (late 1880's) the church was commissioned by Alexander III to commemorate his father, Alexander II, who was assassinated by a terrorist bomb on the location of the church in 1881.

You will also see the famous Bronze Horseman statue of Peter the Great, the Strelka (the spit in the centre of the Neva River, overlooking the Winter Palace),

the first stock exchange, and many stately palaces and of course, the grand Nevsky Prospect, the main avenue of the city.



## Full day of Touring

### Day 10

#### *St Petersburg*

This morning our guide will take us to St Petersburg's Palace Square. Our visit to the Hermitage Museum will take us to another world; a time when Catherine the Great commissioned whole buildings to house an ever growing collection of the world's finest art. This museum holds the largest collection of art in the world. Our guide will escort you through the entire museum, from its collection of Rubens to its da Vincis and beyond.



The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure.

### **Half day of Touring**

### **Day 11**

*St Petersburg - Onwards*

Morning at leisure. Transfer to the airport for your flight onwards.

### **Transfer Only**

*Please note: Sightseeing in Moscow and St Petersburg is subject to change on individual departures depending on the museum opening times*

2010 Departures			
Begin in Moscow	End in St Petersburg	Price Double Occupancy	Price Single Occupancy
21 June	1 July	£2,165.00	£2,530.00
Begin in St Petersburg*	End in Moscow	Price Double Occupancy	Price Single Occupancy
1 July	11 July	£2,165.00	£2,530.00
20 July	30 July	£2,165.00	£2,530.00
8 August	18 August	£2,165.00	£2,530.00
<b>*Itinerary operates in the opposite direction</b>			

All prices per person, sharing Cabin Deck Standard Twin Cabin.

All meals on board are included; wine included with meals; water complimentary.

**Cruise Upgrade Prices – Double Occupancy:**

***Main Deck***

Standard Twin Cabin: £1,025.00

***Promenade Deck***

Deluxe Cabin: £1,645.00

Deluxe Junior Suite: £2,665.00

Owner's Suite: £5,220.00

***Sun Deck***

Superior Twin Cabin: £2,115.00

Deluxe Junior Suite: £2,665.00

Superior Junior Suite: £3,170.00

**Cruise Upgrade Prices – Single Occupancy:**

***Main Deck***

Standard Twin Cabin: £1,295.00

### ***Promenade Deck***

Deluxe Single Cabin: £655.00

Deluxe Cabin: £2,065.00

Deluxe Junior Suite: £4,380.00

Owner's Suite: £8,205.00

### ***Sun Deck***

Superior Single Cabin: £1,745.00

Superior Twin Cabin: £2,650.00

Deluxe Junior Suite: £4,380.00

Superior Junior Suite: £5,150.00

## **Your Itinerary includes**

### **Accommodation**

#### **The Waterways**

Cabin Deck Standard Twin Cabin for Ten (10) nights on the Volga Dream. Port taxes and all meals on ship (breakfast, lunch and dinner daily) included.

These staterooms feature two twin beds and a porthole window. Square footage ranges between 90 to 102 square feet. The stateroom contains a wardrobe with safe and a minibar. The bathroom features a shower with hair dryer, robe and slippers.

No meals included, other than described above. Your guides will recommend restaurants that fit your exact needs daily.

#### **Airfare**

Return flights with British Airways included in Economy.

#### **Services**

Vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide as described.

#### **Transfers**

All transfers to and from airports are included in the programme.

#### **Guides**

Hand chosen for their knowledge on local history, art & architecture. Guides are at your disposal at all times. Guides may assist you with restaurant reservations and purchasing of theatre tickets at your request.

#### **Tickets**

All museum and entrance tickets as described in the programme.

#### **Not Included**

## **Visas**

A visa is required for entry into Russia. We can handle all aspects of obtaining your visa.

Currently the cost of visa is £75.85 and we charge £50.00 handling fee. All we will need is passports and a passport photograph. We will need your passports for up to 10 days. A next day service is available at a supplement.

**Please note that your passport will have to be valid for a minimum of six months after the date of travel and you will need to have two blank pages available.**

## **Insurance**

Exeter International strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance to protect your investment.

*All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary. Prices are subject to change if necessary until paid in full. Exeter International reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect the current volatile fluctuations in foreign exchange markets.*

**Exeter International Ltd.**

500 Chiswick High Road

London W4 5RG

Tel: +44 (0) 20 89562756 / Fax: +44 (0) 870487973

[www.exeterinternational.co.uk](http://www.exeterinternational.co.uk)