



Volga Dream Gold Programme

Moscow to St Petersburg

16 – 26 May*

3 – 13 June

17 – 27 June*

2 – 12 July

27 July – 6 August

9 – 19 August

22 August – 1 September

St Petersburg to Moscow **(itinerary operates in opposite direction)**

26 May – 5 June*

June 9 – 19 June

25 June – 5 July

8 – 18 July

2 – 12 August

15 – 25 August

28 August – 7 September





* All accommodation on board MS Volga Dream (including 2 nights in Moscow and 2 nights in St Petersburg)

The Volga River is the linchpin of a single water system linking Moscow and St Petersburg to five separate seas. For the traveller, the Volga is a key to grasping Russia's insistent mystery- a cruise on the river revealing the jewels and the scars of centuries past. In partially visible towns flooded by the Soviets, cathedrals rise from the water eerily intact. Medieval Orthodox monasteries are still in use on the riverbanks. Otters, herons, and bald eagle give life and motion to the passing scene. Revealing the "real Russia," a cruise down the Volga River, the country's lifeblood, offers a rare glimpse into Russia's colourful past and enterprising future.

Day 1

London-Moscow

Departure from London Heathrow terminal five at 08.55 on British Airways BA872
Arrival in Moscow at 15.55, (+3 hour BST) where you will be met by your private car and driver. Your driver will be waiting for you just outside of customs, after you pick up your luggage. Transfer to the Royal Marriott Aurora. *Please note that transfers can take two hours subject to traffic.*

Airport Transfer

Hotel: Royal Marriott Aurora

Meals Included: In-flight Meal

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 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

Hotel: Royal Marriott Aurora

Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 3

Moscow

This morning 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.

This afternoon after lunch at a local restaurant 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. 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.

Tonight we depart by Volga Dream to begin our journey on the Russian waterways.



Full Day of Touring

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.



Half Day of Touring

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner





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

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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 Zaonejje. 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

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8

Mandrogj

Today after lunch, we will enjoy a tour of the village of Mandrogj. 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

Hotel: The Volga Dream

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9

St Petersburg

This morning please meet in the reception area. You may leave your baggage outside your cabin for a cabin attendant to bring down to reception. 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.





This afternoon after lunch at a local restaurant 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.

You will also see the famous Bronze Horseman statue of Peter the Great, Church on Spilled Blood, 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

Hotel: Angleterre Hotel

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 10

St Petersburg

This morning our guide will take us to 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

Hotel: Angleterre Hotel

Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 11

St Petersburg - Onwards

Morning at leisure. Transfer to the airport for departure on BA879 to London departing at 16:55, arriving at 17:25 local time.

Airport Transfer

Meals Included: Breakfast, In-flight Meal

Please note: Sightseeing in Moscow and St Petersburg is subject to change on





individual departures depending on the museum opening times

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

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Cost Per Person: £2,350.00 sharing Cabin Deck Standard Twin Cabin, Single
Occupancy: £3,025.00

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

Cruise Upgrade Prices Per Person – Double Occupancy:

Main Deck

Standard Twin Cabin: £360.00



Promenade Deck

Deluxe Cabin: £730.00
Junior Suite: £1,400.00
Owner's Suite: £2,490.00

Sun Deck

Superior Twin Cabin: £790.00
Junior Suite: £1,400.00
Deluxe Junior Suite: £1,760.00

Cruise Upgrade Prices – Single Occupancy:

Main Deck

Standard Twin Cabin: £430.00

Promenade Deck

Deluxe Single Cabin £125.00
Deluxe Cabin: £895.00
Junior Suite: £2,360.00
Owner's Suite: £5,750.00

Sun Deck

Superior Single Cabin: £475.00
Superior Twin Cabin: £970.00
Junior Suite: 2,360.00
Superior Junior Suite: £2,895.00

Your Itinerary includes

Accommodation

Moscow

Double room for two (2) nights at the Royal Marriott Aurora; Tax (18%) and Buffet Breakfast included daily.

The Waterways

Standard Cabin on Cabin Deck for seven (7) nights on the Volga Dream. Port taxes and all meals on ship (breakfast, lunch and dinner daily) included.





St Petersburg

Double room for two (2) nights at the Angleterre Hotel in St Petersburg.

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

Flights

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.





Gratuities

Although not compulsory are always welcome.

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.

