

VOLGA DREAM

2022 Volga Dream IMPERIAL

13 days / 12 nights from Moscow to St. Petersburg



- **6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites**
 - Moscow Kremlin & Red Square
 - Ensemble of the Novodevichy Convent, Moscow
 - Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg
 - Historic Centre of the City of Yaroslavl
 - Ensemble of the Ferapontov Monastery, Goritsy
 - Kizhi Pogost, Karelia
- **Special Access to Russia's Iconic Places**
 - Visit to St. Basil's Cathedral
 - Early Entrance to the Hermitage and access to Gold Room closed to general public
- **Must see Art Collections**
 - Biggest in the World collection of Faberge Eggs at the Faberge Museum, St. Petersburg
- **Russian cultural experience aboard the Volga Dream**
 - 4 Fascinating Talks by the Russian Professor
 - Piano Concert of Tchaikovsky and Rakhmaninov
 - Russian Dinner & Vodka Tasting
 - Matryoshka (nesting doll) Painting
 - Russian Language Classes
 - Russian Cooking Classes
 - Tea from the Samovar
 - Welcome Bread & Salt
- **Finest Accommodation and Touring in Small Group**
 - 6 Nights at Four Seasons in Moscow and St. Petersburg
 - 6 Delicious Lunches in the Best Moscow and St. Petersburg Restaurants
 - Touring in Intimate Groups up to 10 Guests
 - Whisper System for the Entire Journey

Day 1. MOSCOW

When you arrive in Moscow, transfer privately to the luxurious **Four Seasons Moscow****** only a minute away from Kremlin and Red Square. . Enjoy a warm-up meeting with your guide and fellow guests (in the hotel lobby from 6 to 9pm).

Meals: –

Day 2. MOSCOW

City tour /Lunch in a Moscow city Skyscraper / Novodevichy Cemetery

09:30am – 5:30pm

Begin the day with an orientation tour of Moscow. The city boasts unique diversity and variety in terms of building styles: classic, modern, empire and eclecticism amazingly sit alongside more monumental designs, such as Stalin's towering skyscrapers from the mid 20th century. The architecture of the capital, though seemingly contradictory and contrasting, makes for a dazzling combination in a quite unique city.

Lunch is served in a restaurant on the top-floor of one of Moscow's skyscrapers offering spectacular city views. After lunch, visit the famous Novodevichi Cemetery, where well-known Russian authors, musicians, playwrights, and poets, are buried along with famous actors, political leaders, and scientists.

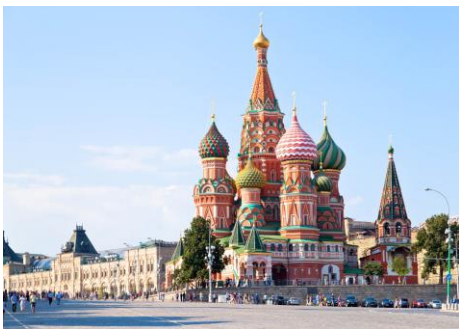
City tour highlights: Tverskaya Street, Lubyanka Square, Kremlin embankment. Novodevichy Convent (photo stop), and if time permits, a stop at the Christ the Savior Cathedral, Sparrow Hills.

Meals: B, L

Day 3. MOSCOW

Kremlin / Armory Museum / Red Square Walk / St. Basil's Cathedral / GUM Department Store / Park Zaryadye

9:30am – 5:30pm



The morning consists of a stroll through the famous Moscow Kremlin with its beautiful cathedrals and unique museums. The Armory hosts an impressive collection of opulent coronation finery, hand-forged armor and ancient weapons, royal carriages and sleighs.

After lunch, cross Red Square to visit GUM, Moscow's largest department store, and enter a masterpiece of medieval Moscow – St. Basil's Cathedral. Then proceed with a leisurely walk through the newly designed park Zaryadye, a stone's throw from the Kremlin and Red Square.

Meals: B, L

Day 4. MOSCOW

Leo Tolstoy House-Museum in Hamovniki / Old Tretyakov Gallery / Moscow Metro Embarkation aboard the *MS Volga Dream*

10:00 am – 6:00 pm

The first stop after checking-out of your hotel is a small and cozy former home-estate once owned by one of Russia's literary greats, Leo Tolstoy. He lived with his wife and thirteen

children in this two-storey wooden Moscow house from 1882 to 1901; it is now a carefully preserved memorial.

The sightseeing continues after lunch at the State Tretyakov Gallery with its extraordinary collection of Russian art, ranging from Rublev's 12th century icons to 19th century masterpieces. Explore Moscow's Metro, famed for its architectural splendour.

Meanwhile, the luxurious MS Volga Dream awaits and your voyage along Russia's extensive waterways is about to begin. The Captain's welcome reception and dinner mark the start of our unforgettable cruise.

Volga Dream Experience: Bread, Salt & Vodka 'Welcome Aboard' Ceremony

Meals: B, L, D

Day 5. UGLICH

After a full day of cruising through idyllic forested countryside, we tie up in the ancient trading town of Uglich, a key point in Russia's renowned 'Golden Ring'. Explore the impressive Church of St. Dmitri-on-the-Blood, erected on the site where Dmitri, son of Ivan the Terrible, was murdered in 1591. Then an enchanting concert of choral music performed in St. John's Church.

Volga Dream Experience: Costumed Russian Tea Ceremony & Russian Cooking Class

Meals: B, L, D



Day 6. YAROSLAVL

Founded in 1010, Yaroslavl is one of central Russia's oldest cities and boasts the Volga's first port. There is much to see: the Spassky Monastery houses the Transfiguration of the Savior and the Church of Elijah the Prophet and an impressive collection of mosaics. Take part in a costumed reception at the governor's house before re-boarding the *MS Volga Dream* in time for lunch.

Volga Dream Experience: Barbeque on the Sun Deck

Meals: B, L, D

Day 7. GORITSY

This morning takes us on an early crossing of Lake Beloye, or the White Lake, once known as the "tsar's fishing grounds", before arriving in the peaceful village of Goritsy where we tour the Ferapontov Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with magnificent frescoes by Dionysius, one of Russia's most renowned icon painters. He painted the temple ceiling about 10 years before Michelangelo even started on the Sistine Chapel! Return to the ship for a late lunch and afternoon cruising.

Volga Dream Experience: Russian Dinner with Vodka Tasting

Meals: B, L, D



Day 8. KIZHI

Kareliya is a region that must be seen to be believed, it spans all the way from St. Petersburg to the Arctic Circle, a vast wilderness of forest and water. Lake Onega is fed by 58 rivers and is home to 1,369 islands, including our stop, Kizhi with its quaint collection of ancient wooden houses and windmills including the famous and remarkable Transfiguration church, built in 1714 without a single nail being used.

Volga Dream Experience: Piano Concert – pieces by Tchaikovsky and Rakhmaninov

Meals: B, L, D



Day 9. SVIRSTROY

The highlight of your day in Svirstroy is being invited into a local resident's home. Warm and welcoming villagers will offer tea with jam and "pirozhki" (local pies). They will enthusiastically tell you all about Russian tradition, lifestyle and the attractions of Svirstroy village while proudly showing off their homes and kitchen gardens. After tea, hop on a bus to tour the nearby town, see a spectacular WWII memorial and visit a local primary school.

Volga Dream Experience: Farewell Dinner

Meals: B, L, D

Day 10. ST. PETERSBURG

City Tour / Canal boat / Tour of Yusupov Palace / Red Army Choir Performance

9:30am – 6:30pm



The *MS Volga Dream* ties up in St. Petersburg on the Neva River where we disembark for a city tour, including Peter and Paul Fortress (inside), the Royal Romanov burial site and Nevsky Prospect with its rich selection of fine shops, cafes, and museums. Then we proceed to St. Isaac's Cathedral, whose gilded dome dominates the city skyline. Sculptures and massive red granite columns decorate the façade, while the interior is even more lavishly appointed with mosaics, icons and columns of malachite and lapis lazuli.

During lunch you will enjoy the Red Army Choir Performance. After meal we embark on a canal cruise sailing under the city's many historic bridges and past its magnificent pastel. The day ends with a tour of Yusupov's Palace – a former home to one of St. Petersburg's wealthiest aristocrats. The enigmatic story of Grigory Rasputin, the monk assassinated here by Prince Felix Yusupov, is told in this very basement.



Evening check- in at the luxurious **Four Seasons Lion's Palace*******.

City tour includes: Split of Basil Island (walking tour), Spilled Blood Church (photo stop), Peter and Paul Fortress (inside tour), St. Isaac Cathedral (photo stop), Nevskiy Prospect drive.

Meals: B, L

Day 11. ST. PETERSBURG

The State Hermitage (Early Entrance) / Gold Room / Peterhof: Park and One of the Small Cottages

9:00am – 7:00pm



The morning takes you to one of the most famous museums in the world, the awe-inspiring Hermitage in the lavishly decorated Winter Palace. (To avoid the crowds, we've arranged special Early Entrance for you, before official opening hours.) The Hermitage occupies six magnificent buildings and houses 3 million artworks ranging from Stone Age to modern times. The collection includes Leonardo Da Vinci, Rafael and Titian. After exploring the main galleries, proceed to the Gold Room, usually closed to general public, with a collection of gold Scythian artwork and elaborate imperial gifts.

Lunch is followed by a tour to one of the most spectacular Imperial estate of Peterhof, often dubbed the Russian Versailles. The vast Lower Park, with its 176 fountains and four cascades, is a glorious place to walk, taking in majestic palaces and numerous gilded statues of ancient gods and heroes. Return to St. Petersburg by hydrofoil.

Meals: B, L

Day 12. ST. PETERSBURG

Faberge Museum / Catherine's Palace / Amber Room

9:30am – 5:30pm

Enjoy a full sightseeing day with a visit to the Fabergé Museum, founded by entrepreneur, Viktor Vekselberg. The museum was opened in December 2013 to display a glittering collection of Faberge eggs and objects d'art created by Peter Carl Fabergé and his staff. Vekselberg's collection is rated as one of the world's most valuable and includes items he bought from the Forbes family in 2004 for \$100 million.

After lunch we travel to the Tsar's Village to visit the famous Catherine's Palace and the exquisitely recreated Amber Room. A stroll through the formal gardens is highly recommended. We enter the Pushkin grounds through the Golden Gate and ascend the staircase to the Grand Hall. The Golden Enfilade offers a glorious view of the Amber Room.

Meals: B, L

Day 13. ST. PETERSBURG

Private transfer to airport for your outbound flight.

Meals: B

Important Notes:

- All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.
- Weather, traffic and crowds can all affect the order of our sightseeing program.
- Tour order and times may be subject to change. Please request exact travel schedule for each individual cruise
- Itinerary from St. Petersburg to Moscow mirrors the Moscow to St. Petersburg itinerary

ACCOMMODATION

MOSCOW - FOUR SEASONS HOTEL MOSCOW *****

The Four Seasons Hotel Moscow boasts a superb historic location, overlooking Manezhnaya Square, just steps away from Red Square, St Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin, offering superb accommodation in one of the best addresses in town! The interior, including its 180 luxurious rooms and suites, exudes contemporary style and luxury that compliments the wonderful heritage of the building. All rooms are naturally lit with floor-to-ceiling windows and many have step-out balconies. The exterior façade has been replicated in meticulous detail, including the distinctive asymmetry between the two wings that surround a new glass-topped atrium. With its five inviting restaurants and lounges, including the signature Italian restaurant Quadrum, its luxurious rooms and Amnis Spa complex, the Four Seasons Hotel Moscow is the ideal place to stay for clients seeking luxury in the heart of the historic district of Moscow.



ST. PETERSBURG - FOUR SEASONS HOTEL LION PALACE*****

Housed within a 19th-century Russian royal palace, the Four Seasons Hotel Lion Palace is a treasure in the historic Admiralteysky district, just two blocks from the Hermitage Museum and close to Nevsky Prospekt and the Mariinsky Theatre. Heritage architectural features, include the main stairway and entry hall, which have all been restored to their original 1820 beauty. This luxury property features 183 spacious rooms and suites, all boasting high ceilings, large windows and marble bathrooms, enhanced by views of Saint Isaac's Cathedral, Aleksandrovsky Garden and the Admiralty. There are two restaurants, Sintoho, serving Asian food in an informal atmosphere and Percorso, in which to enjoy modern Italian dishes. There is also a spa and 24-hour fitness centre, complete with a relaxation pool under a glass roof. Due to its great history and location, this hotel is perfect for the guest seeking an accommodation with a great story and incredible landmarks close by.

