

VOLGA DREAM

2022 Volga Dream PLATINUM

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**
 - 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 the nicest Moscow and St. Petersburg Hotels
 - 6 Delicious Lunches in the Best Moscow and St. Petersburg Restaurants
 - Touring in Intimate Groups of 12 - 16 Guests
 - Whisper System for the Entire Journey

Day 1. MOSCOW

When you arrive in Moscow, transfer to the deluxe **Ararat Park Hyatt******* in the historic city centre. 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.

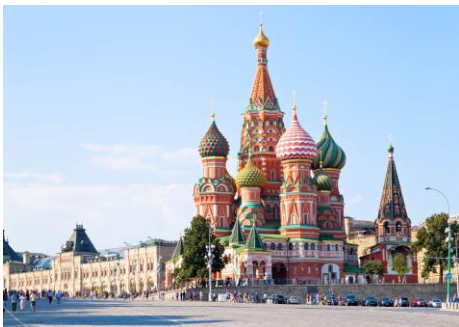
City tour highlights: Tverskaya Street, Lubyanka Square, Kremlin embankment and visit to St. Basil Cathedral. Novodevichy Convent (photo stop), and if time permits, a stop at the Cathedral of Christ the Savior and Sparrow Hills.

Meals: B, L

Day 3. MOSCOW

Kremlin / Armory Museum / Red Square Walk / 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. 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/ Peter and Paul Fortress

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 Tour, the Royal Romanov burial site and Nevsky Prospect with its rich selection of fine shops, cafes, and museums.

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 five-star **Belmond Grand Hotel Europe******.



City tour includes: Split of Basil Island (walking tour), The Savior of Spilled Blood (photo stop), Peter and Paul Fortress (entrance), St. Isaac Cathedral (photo stop), Nevsky 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.



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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 – 6:30pm

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

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 – Ararat Park Hyatt*****

Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow is located on a quiet side-street in the very heart of the city within the immediate vicinity of the Bolshoi Theatre, Kremlin, Red Square, luxury shopping and dining areas. Hotel offers 208 rooms designed by Tony Chi, including Winter Garden Suites with private terraces overlooking the Kremlin and brand new two-storied Penthouse with separate entrance and private kitchen. The personalized service and outstanding quality offered by residential style 5-star hotel, which caters to the discerning traveler seeking privacy, luxury and elegance, distinguish Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow from other hotels in Moscow. Moreover, the hotel offers Moscow's fine dining restaurants and bars. Among them are the legendary Café Ararat, known for Armenian specialties, the botanical garden at the Conservatory Lounge & Bar, recognized for its panoramic views over the city, outstanding design and signature cuisine, the elegant Neglinka Lounge, The Park Restaurant and Japanese restaurant Enoki. In order to meet the needs of the modern traveler, the luxury Moscow hotel is glad to offer its guests use of Quantum Spa & Health Club, featuring the latest cardiovascular technology for fitness enthusiasts alongside pure pampering and relaxation.



ST. PETERSBURG – Belmond Grand Hotel Europe*****

A cultural and culinary landmark, Grand Hotel Europe has played a central role in the life of St. Petersburg for over 130 years. A truly iconic Orient-Express hotel, renowned for its impressive façade and decorative interiors the Belmond is on Nevsky Prospect surrounded by the city's great architectural treasures.

Next door to Arts Square, the hotel has strong associations with the worlds of theatre, music and dance. Past guests include Tchaikovsky and Pavarotti, crowned heads and world leaders. A stay here takes you straight to the heart of Russia, especially during the White Days of winter. When the snow lies deep in the streets, a warm welcome awaits within.



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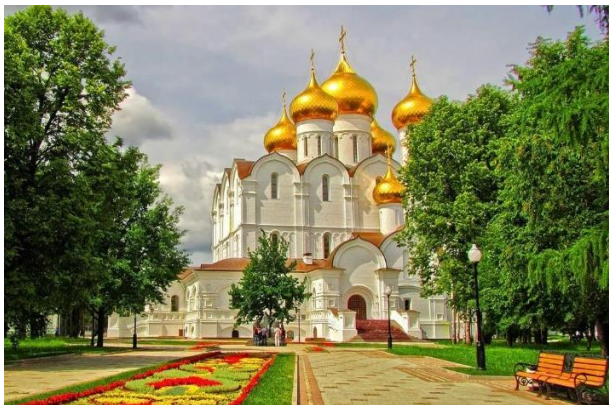
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12:00pm – 8:00pm

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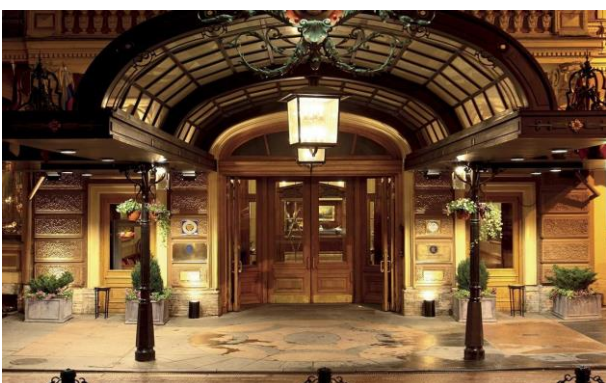
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ST. PETERSBURG – LOTTE Hotel St. Petersburg*****

LOTTE Hotel St. Petersburg is an unrivalled, luxurious hotel located in a historic mansion on Moika River embankment in the very heart of the business and cultural life of the city. Palace Square is within a 15-minute walk from this 5-star hotel and guests can enjoy splendid views of St. Isaac's Cathedral from the terrace rooftop bar.

