

VOLGA DREAM

2017 Volga Dream PLATINUM Program¹⁾

13 days / 12 nights from Moscow to St. Petersburg²⁾

Included³⁾:

3 nights at the deluxe **St. Regis Moscow Hotel Nikolskaya******* in Moscow

6 nights aboard **MS Volga Dream**

3 nights at the deluxe **Grand Hotel Europe******* in St. Petersburg



1) Sample Program – times and order of tours may change. Please request from us exact travel schedule for each individual cruise

2) Itinerary from St. Petersburg to Moscow mirrors itinerary from Moscow to St. Petersburg

3) Hotels and cruise vessel may be changed for similar

TRIP DESCRIPTION & HIGHLIGHTS

Volga Dream PLATINUM caters to discerning travelers who prefer to travel privately or in an intimate group. This journey includes accommodation in the finest 5-star hotels in Moscow and St. Petersburg – the St. Regis Nikolskaya and Grand Hotel Europe – and extensive touring of the most breathtaking sites in a group of 12-15 guests.

- Visit to the Armory, Diamond Fund and Museum of Cosmonautics in Moscow
- Special early entrance to the Hermitage museum in St. Petersburg
- Visit to magnificent Faberge Museum and Catherine's Palace in St. Petersburg
- 6 breakfasts in the hotels / 6 lunches in gourmet Moscow and St. Petersburg restaurants
- 6 breakfasts / 6 lunches / 6 dinners aboard *MS Volga Dream* with house wine, beer and soft drinks included without limit with all lunches and dinners
- 4 fascinating lectures by Russian professors about Russian history and politics
- Diverse range of cultural activities aboard *MS Volga Dream*

Day 1. MOSCOW

Upon arrival in Moscow, transfer to the deluxe The St. Regis Moscow Hotel Nikolskaya**** located in the historic city centre within a 5 minutes walk to the famous Red Square and Moscow Kremlin. In the evening gather for the warm-up meeting with your guide (available at the hotel lobby from 6pm to 9pm) or spend the rest of the day exploring central Moscow on your own.

Meals: –

Day 2. MOSCOW

Kremlin / Armoury Museum / Diamond Fund / Red Square



9:30 am – 5:30 pm

This morning enter the Kremlin for a visit to the Armoury Museum to view its collection of opulent coronation finery, hand-forged armour and weapons, royal carriages and sleighs, and dazzling Faberge eggs.

View the ornate gems of the Diamond Fund, including Catherine the Great's diamond-encrusted coronation crown and the 190-carat Orlov Diamond, and continue to the Square of Four Cathedrals.

After lunch walk around the famous Red Square and visit GUM - Moscow's largest department store. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore Moscow on your own or seek out a cultural performance at one of the city's renowned venues.

Meals: B, L

Day 3. MOSCOW

City Tour / Novodevichy Cemetery / Museum of Cosmonautics



10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Begin the day with an orientation city tour of Moscow and after visit famous Novodevichy Cemetery which holds the tombs of Russian authors, musicians, playwrights, and poets, as well as famous actors, political leaders, and scientists.

After lunch, visit Museum of Cosmonautics to learn about Yury Gagarin's first flight in the space and proceed to an outdoor Exhibition of Achievements of the People's Economy – a truly remarkable footprint of Soviet Architecture and design.

City tour includes: Red Square walking tour, St. Basil's Cathedral (photo stop w/o entrance), GUM Department Store (entrance if time allows), Cathedral of Christ the Savior (entrance if time and availability allows), Novodevichy Cemetery (entrance).

Meals: B, L

Day 4. MOSCOW

Tretyakov Gallery / Metro Ride / Embarkation on *MS Volga Dream*

10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Check-out from the hotel and proceed to the Tretyakov Gallery, the first museum dedicated exclusively to Russian fine art.



After lunch, explore Moscow's Metro, known for its architectural splendor and transfer to the awaiting luxurious *MS Volga Dream* to begin sailing along the Russian waterways.

Gather for the Captain's welcome reception and dinner as we begin our cruise.

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

Meals: B, L, D

Day 5. UGLICH

After a full day of cruising through forested countryside, dock in the ancient trading town of Uglich, one of the spokes of 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, and attend an enchanting concert of choral music at St. John's Church.

Volga Dream Experience: Documentary Film "Construction of the Moscow Canal"

Meals: B, L, D



Day 6. YAROSLAVL

Founded in 1010, Yaroslavl is one of the oldest cities in central Russia and the Volga's first port. In the Spassky Monastery see the Transfiguration of the Savior and admire the mosaics at the Church of Elijah the Prophet. Take part in a costumed reception at the governor's house, and then re-board the *MS Volga Dream* in time for lunch.

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

Meals: B, L, D

Day 7. GORITSY

In the tiny settlement of Goritsy, visit the Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, founded in 1397, and now home to one of the best collections of Russian icons in the world. After a guided tour, continue cruising toward majestic Lake Onega.

Volga Dream Experience: Russian Dinner with Vodka Tasting

Meals: B, L, D



Day 8. KIZHI

The Kareliya region, which spans the area from St. Petersburg to the Arctic Circle, is a vast wilderness of forest and water. Discover Lake Onega, fed by 58 rivers and home to 1,369 islands, including Kizhi. See a collection of ancient Russian wooden houses and windmills, and the famous Transfiguration church, built in 1714 without a single nail.

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

Meals: B, L, D



Day 9. SVIR RIVER AND THE VILLAGE OF MANDROGI

While cruising along the 139-mile-long Svir River, appreciate the quiet understated beauty of a region that has long inspired artists and poets. The ship passes quaint riverside hamlets before reaching Lake Ladoga. Step ashore for a brief visit to the vacation village of Mandrogi to experience daily life in a quaint wooden village on your own.

Volga Dream Experience: Barbeque on the Open Deck

Meals: B, L, D

Day 10. ST. PETERSBURG City Tour / Faberge Museum



9:30am – 5:30pm

Arrive in St. Petersburg via the Neva River and disembark *MS Volga Dream*.

Enjoy a city tour of St. Petersburg and after lunch visit Faberge museum which contains world's largest collection of works by Carl Faberge, including 9 Easter eggs commissioned by the Russian royal family.

After the tour, check-in to the deluxe Grand Hotel Europe.

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

Meals: B, L

Day 11. ST. PETERSBURG

State Hermitage (early entrance) / Peterhof: Park and Bath Cottage

8:30am – 6:30pm

This morning enter the famed Hermitage Museum before hours to avoid heavy crowds.

After lunch travel to the meticulously restored Peterhof, St. Petersburg's most famous and spectacular Imperial estate, often cited as the Versailles of Russia. Visit the authentic Bath Cottage and stroll in the vast Lower Park with 176 fountains of various forms and styles and four cascades, majestic palaces and numerous gilded statues of ancient gods and heroes. Return to St. Petersburg by hydrofoil.

Meals: B, L

Day 12. ST. PETERSBURG

Catherine's Palace / Amber Room / Russia in Miniature Museum / Canal boat



9:30am – 7:30pm

This morning travel to Catherine the Great's Palace, which houses the extraordinary Amber Room, its six tons of solid amber deftly carved and framed in gold leaf. Once deemed the "eighth wonder of the world," the room was stripped by the Nazis in 1941, but majestically reconstructed in honour of St. Petersburg's 300th birthday.

After lunch in Podvorie, a restaurant in a traditional Russian log house, on the way back to St. Petersburg visit a 'Russia in Miniature' Interactive Museum. Done with a great care and attention to detail, this very realistic model of Russia will give you a great picture of this vast country full of stereotypes, generalizations and main attractions of every region.

In the evening, board a small river boat for a sail around the numerous rivers and canals of St. Petersburg.

Meals: B, L

Day 13. ST. PETERSBURG

This morning check out from your hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight.

Meals: B

All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary. Weather, heavy traffic and heavy crowds may affect the order of your sightseeing program.

ACCOMMODATION

MOSCOW – The St. Regis Moscow Hotel Nikolskaya

The St. Regis Moscow Hotel Nikolskaya is a complex of historical buildings with an unrivalled location at the corner of pedestrian Nikol'skaya Street within a 5 minutes walk to the Red Square.



ST. PETERSBURG – 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, it stands on Nevsky Prospekt among the city's great architectural treasures—renowned for its impressive façade and decorative interiors.

Positioned adjacent 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 snow lies outside and a warm welcome awaits within.



Check-in to the hotels starts at 15:00, check-out ends before 12:00