

Russian Odyssey & the Ost-West Express

*A train journey from London to Moscow combined with a
12 day river cruise along the Volga to St Petersburg*



If you enjoy travelling by train the chances are that river cruising will also appeal. Both mediums allow the traveller to view the landscape at eye level and enjoy the journey as much as reaching the ultimate destination. Noble Caledonia has operated almost 1000 river trips in Russia over the past 20 years and normally our passengers fly into Moscow and depart by air from St Petersburg. We are now offering the opportunity to travel to Moscow by train. The journey will take two and a half days and include a hotel stop in Warsaw. In Moscow we board the *MS Yesenin* for our journey along the river Volga, its linking canals lakes and other rivers that eventually lead us to Russia's jewel in the crown, St Petersburg.

The journey between these two great cities includes three days exploring the Golden Ring, a very different insight to Russia's intriguing past with their kremlins and elaborately decorated cathedrals. By way of complete contrast the itinerary continues into the forests and lakes of Kareliya where we will pass villages and hamlets with a timeless quality.

Professor Ludmilla Selezneva



Professor Ludmilla Selezneva will be joining us onboard the *MS Yesenin* for these cruises as guest speaker. Ludmilla is a graduate with honors from Rostov State University and received her first doctorate in 1996 from the Russian State University of Humanities in Moscow. Since 2001, Ludmilla Selezneva has worked as a professor of history and politics at the University for the Humanitarian Education in Moscow. She has published more than 50 articles and authored or coauthored 10 other books.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Warsaw. Depart London St Pancras International by *Eurostar* for Brussels with connection to Cologne. Here we board the *Jan Keipura* overnight sleeper service to Warsaw.

Day 2 Warsaw. Arrive this morning and stay overnight in a centrally located four-star hotel. Enjoy a city tour and lunch, with the remainder of the day free.

Day 3 Warsaw to Moscow. Morning at leisure. In the afternoon, join the *Ost-West Express* at Warsaw's Wschodnia Station for the overnight journey to Moscow.

Day 4 Moscow. Arrive in the late morning and transfer to the *MS Yesenin* which will be your floating hotel for the next 11 nights.

Days 5 & 6 Moscow. Your stay in Moscow will begin with a morning's guided city tour which will include Red Square and St Basil's cathedral (outside only). In addition there will be another guided tour inside the Kremlin. With your free time, explore the Metro, perhaps visit the Tretyakov Gallery with its magnificent collection of Russian paintings.



Old Town Square, Warsaw



Church of the Transfiguration, Kizhi

Day 7 Uglich. Relax this morning as we cruise along the Volga, passing medieval villages a world away from modern Moscow. As we approach Uglich, you will see the cathedral and churches rise up from the horizon, and this has made Uglich one of the most beloved cities in Russia. It was here that Ivan the Terrible's son Dmitry was murdered in 1591, and the city built the magnificent Church of St-Dmitry-on-the-Blood on the spot where the murder took place. We will also visit the Cathedral of the Resurrection and view the outside of St John's Church.

Day 8 Yaroslavl. Stretching for some 18 miles on both banks of the Volga, Yaroslavl is an important port, founded in the 11th century by Prince Yaroslavl the Wise. We will see the 13th century Spassky Monastery ensemble, a group of majestic 17th century cathedrals and an elegant rotunda, and the remains of an ancient trading centre. Spend some time in the Church of Elijah the Prophet. Its walls and vaulting are covered in fine old Russian paintings. Spend some free time in the marketplace before returning to the ship for lunch. Afternoon cruising.

Day 9 Goritzky. Spend a relaxing morning as we cruise to Goritzky. A typical Russian village, Goritzky is home to the 16th century Monastery of the Resurrection, where Ivan the Terrible's first and fourth wives were exiled. This village is also home of the famous Kirillov Belozersky Monastery, now a museum, founded by St Kirill in 1397. Stroll through the peaceful grounds, which feature small wooden chapels.

Day 10 Kizhi Island. Enjoy the morning cruising beautiful Lake Onega, Europe's second-largest lake. After lunch, arrive at Kizhi Island, home of the Open-Air Museum of Architecture with its



Red Square, Moscow



dozens of buildings, wooden houses, windmills and churches. The Church of the Transfiguration, Russia's largest wooden church with its walls and 22 aspen cupolas, was built in 1714 and constructed without the use of nails. Adjacent is the Church of the Intercession, where Orthodox services are still held.

Day 11 Mandrogi. As we make our approach to St Petersburg we will stop at the village of Mandrogi, located in the middle of the final locks leading to St Petersburg. It features a collection of wooden houses but the main activity is craft making, such as lace, ceramics and matryoshkas.

Days 12 to 14 St Petersburg. After breakfast, arrive in magnificent St Petersburg, where you will have three days to explore this unique city. Our programme will include a guided city tour including some of its beautiful aristocratic palaces and the Peter & Paul Fortress. We will also visit the Hermitage Museum, which features one of the world's greatest collections of fine art. On our last day in this incomparable city we will drive out to Petrodvorets Grand Palace, with its lavish rooms, intricately patterned parquet floors and galleries. It also features extensive parks and gardens with an array of gilded statues and fountains.

Day 15 St Petersburg to London Heathrow. Disembark and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London.



Catherine's Palace, St Petersburg



Church of Elijah the Prophet, Yaroslavl



Church of St Dmitry on the Blood, Uglich

Prices per person

Based on double occupancy Tour Code: RCOSTWEST

Dates: 3rd to 17th August & 24th August to 7th September 2011

CAT	DECK	CABIN DESCRIPTION	
4	Main	Standard twin	£2120
3	Boat	Standard twin	£2220
2	Main	Superior twin	£2420
1	Boat	Junior suite	£2770
N/A	Boat	Suite	£3170
4	Main	For sole occupancy	£2870
3	Boat	For sole occupancy	£3070
2	Main	For sole occupancy	£3270

Price includes: Train travel from London to Moscow*, overnight hotel accommodation in Warsaw on bed and breakfast basis, 11 nights aboard the *MS Yesenin* on full board, shore excursions, tour manager, guest speaker, local guides, transfers, port taxes, economy class air travel from St Petersburg to London, airport taxes.

Not included: Travel insurance, Russian visa, Belarus transit visa, gratuities.

* Please call for full details on train travel or refer to our website www.noble-caledonia.co.uk

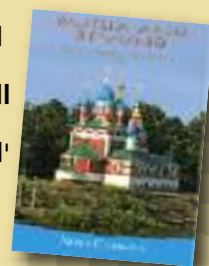
NB. Ports subject to change. Water levels may affect itinerary.

Russian Odyssey

If you are interested in flying to Moscow to join the cruise (on day 4), we have many more dates available from May to September as follows: 14th May; 4th, 25th June; 16th July; 6th, 27th August; 17th September 2011.

Prices start from £1695 per person based on double occupancy

For details on all our cruises in Russia, please call for our 2011 'Russia & Beyond' brochure

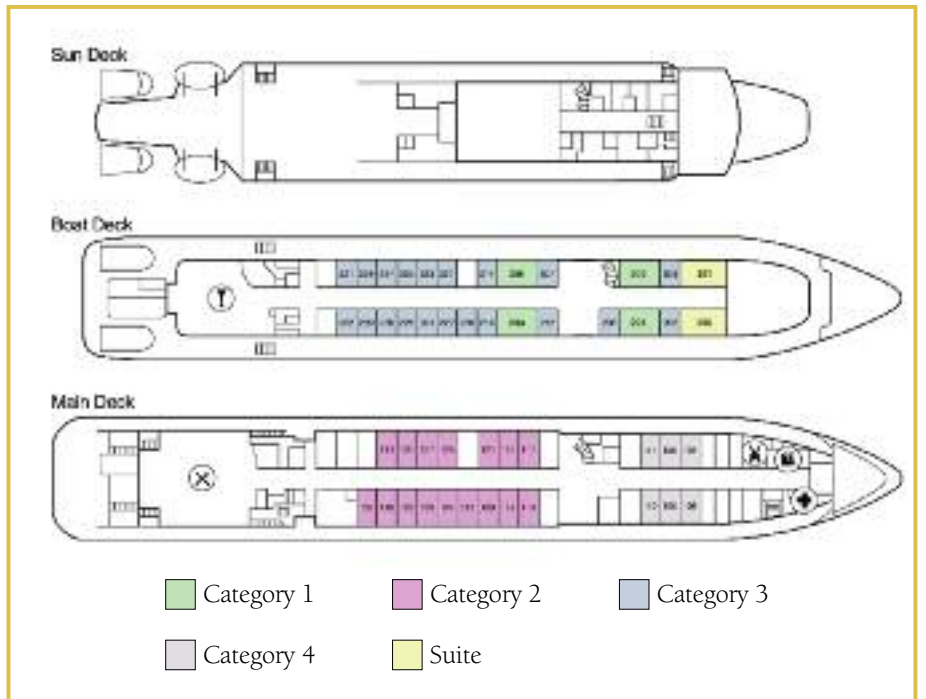


MS YESENIN

Named after the famous Russian poet of the revolution, the *MS Yesenin* was launched in the late 1980s for the Soviet elite. Built in Austria, she has the great advantage of accommodating only 90 passengers, whereas most other vessels in the region carry 200-250 passengers. The cabins are comfortable and all have the benefit of a large picture window, a dressing table and a full length mirror. The cabins are located over two decks. There is a choice of smaller standard cabins on the Boat and Main deck or larger cabins on the Main deck. In addition, there are junior suites which are double the size of the Boat deck cabins, or suites which are three times the size of the Boat deck cabins. Facilities on board include a reading and observation lounge, main lounge and bar, concert/lecture room, single sitting dining room and spacious sun deck.



Lounge



Standard cabin



Junior suite



Restaurant

FRONT COVER: Grand Cascades at the Summer Palace, Peterhof, St Petersburg

Call 020-7752 0000
 Reservations: Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm. Brochures: 24 hours a day/7 days a week

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