

RUSSIA

LUXURY RIVER CRUISING
ALONG THE VOLGA

Aboard the MS Volga Dream
May & September 2019



NOBLE CALEDONIA



MS VOLGA DREAM

The vast network of Russian waterways is served by numerous standard class vessels. However for our journey along the Volga we are fortunate to be using the deluxe MS Volga Dream. This elegant vessel has been totally rebuilt from a vessel that originally accommodated over 200 passengers and now accommodates just 100. The result is a splendid and spacious vessel that offers superior accommodation and services.

Your Cabin

Cabins are located over four decks and categories range from standard cabins on the Cabin Deck to deluxe suites on the Sun Deck. All cabins are outside facing with Standard staterooms on the Cabin Deck featuring porthole windows, Main and Promenade Deck cabins feature large picture windows, except for the Owner's suite located on the Promenade Deck which has both large picture windows and a private wrap around terrace. All cabins and suites on the Sun Deck feature picture windows. All cabins offer individually controlled air-conditioning and heating, direct dial telephone, satellite flat screen television and minibar. Additional comforts provided include bathrobes, slippers, hairdryer, bathroom accessories kit and bottled water (replenished daily).

Life On Board

With just 100 fellow passengers and 60 crew members, the MS Volga Dream prides itself in its personal and friendly ambiance. Although the atmosphere aboard is informal, the comfort and service is akin to a deluxe hotel, otherwise not available in remote rural areas of Russia. Your daily programme will be busy ashore, but your time on board will be relaxed and convivial. In addition to shore excursions there will be daily activities aboard the vessel for your enjoyment, such as Russian language classes, matryoshka painting classes, Russian cooking classes and if the weather permits a barbecue on the Sun Deck.

For your Comfort, Safety and Security

The MS Volga Dream's dedicated crew of 60 is there to ensure that your journey along Russia's iconic river is comfortable, informative and above all safe. The ship is not designed for those with severe mobility restrictions or wheelchair dependent passengers as there is no lift on board. There is a full time doctor on board in the unlikely case of an emergency or a passenger seeking medical attention. Smoking on board is restricted to a specially designated area on the Sun Deck.



Deluxe Junior Suite



Owner's Suite



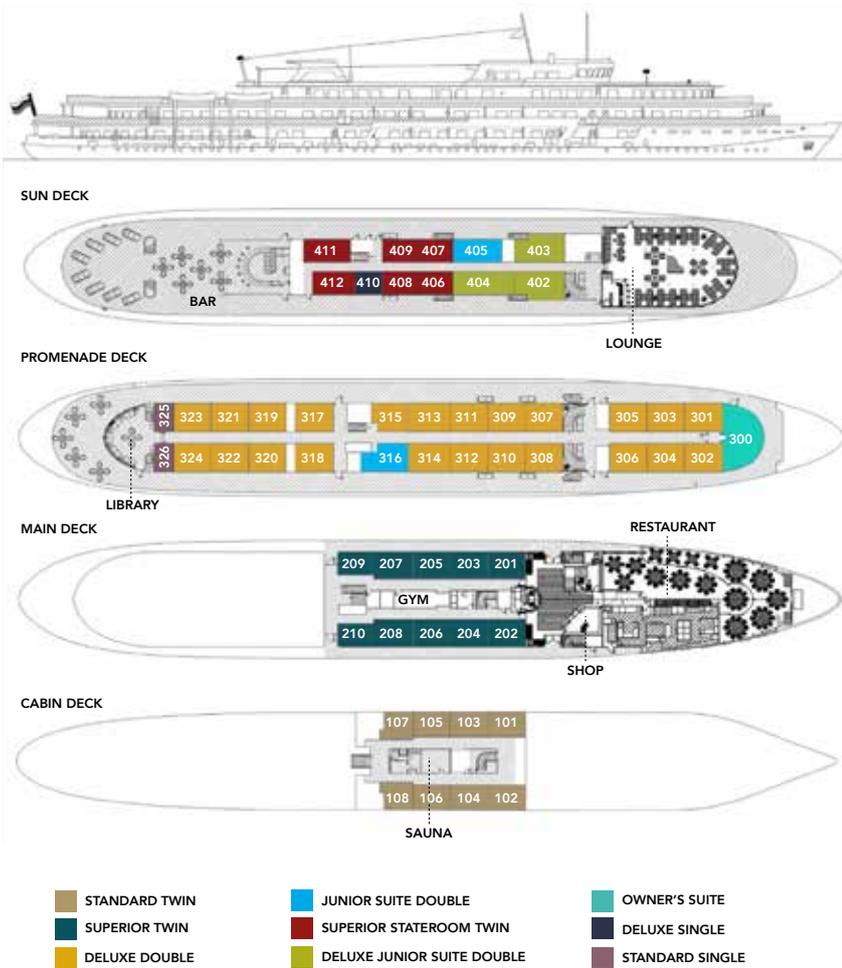
Deluxe Double Cabin



Lounge



Restaurant



Library and Games Room



Superior Twin Cabin



Bar

Your Space

Spread over four decks, the MS Volga Dream is spacious and tastefully decorated to look more like a country hotel than a river vessel. The restaurant is located on the Main Deck and accommodates all guests in one sitting. The Neva Lounge and Bar is a pleasant space for relaxation with large panoramic windows and a bar area where music is performed live. On the large, spacious Sun Deck you will find comfortable deck furniture where you can relax and take in the passing Russian countryside. There is also a library which features board games and internet access, a fitness centre, sauna and small shop.

Your Dining

The stylish restaurant is located on the Main Deck and seats all passengers in one sitting at tables of four, six and eight. In keeping with the superior quality of the vessel, the cuisine aboard the MS Volga Dream is what you would expect aboard a luxurious river vessel and both Russian and international cuisine is served. Breakfast is served buffet style with both continental and cooked meal options, and lunch is served buffet-style, with an à la carte option for your main course. When weather permits guests are welcome to enjoy their meals on the Sun Deck. Dinner is served à la carte and is a four course affair, including some specialist themed evenings which will feature national delicacies. Afternoon tea is served daily in the lounge and there is a coffee and tea station operating 24 hours a day.

Guest Speaker - Professor Ludmilla Selezneva



We are delighted that Professor Ludmilla Selezneva, one of our most popular Guest Speakers will be joining all three of our charters of the MS Volga Dream in 2019. Ludmilla's passion and expertise on Russia will be one of the many highlights of our cruises and her lectures will add immeasurably to your knowledge of Russian history and culture. Ludmilla is a graduate with honours from Rostov State University and received her first doctorate there in history in 1982. She attained her second doctorate in 1996 from the Russian State University of Humanities in Moscow. Since 2001, Ludmilla has worked as a professor of history and politics at the University of the Humanitarian Education in Moscow. She has published more than 50 articles and authored or co-authored 10 books. She is a well-recognised authority on 20th century Russia, the Russian political movements and parties, and the modern political history.

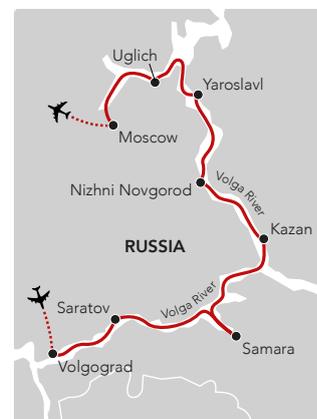
CRUISING THE MIGHTY VOLGA

A cultural journey through the heartland of Russia, from Volgograd to Moscow with Professor Ludmilla Selezneva

13th to 24th May 2019

Here is a wonderful opportunity to travel along ‘the main street of Russia’, an apt title for the mighty Volga River as she snakes her way from the historic city of Volgograd through the Russian heartland to Moscow. Along the way we will encounter the many ethnic peoples of the Central Volga, learn something of their cultures and enjoy the ever changing landscapes of countryside and city, of towns and villages. We will pass small hamlets of wooden houses, fabulous Kremlins, glorious cathedrals and, in stark contrast, some vast industrial complexes.

Our voyage begins in Volgograd (Stalingrad), scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the Second World War. We then journey through fascinating places such as ancient Nizhni Novgorod, colourful Kazan, and the cities of the Golden Ring to reach Moscow, the striking and dynamic capital of this captivating country.



Domes of the Church of Elijah the Prophet, Yaroslavl

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Volgograd, Russia. Fly by scheduled flight via Moscow. On arrival, transfer to the MS Volga Dream. Moor overnight.

Day 2 Volgograd. Formerly known as Tsaritsyn and then Stalingrad, the name-changes of this remarkable city mirror its turbulent and tumultuous past. Being the site of epic battles during the Russian Revolution, it was known as Stalingrad from 1925 to 1961. It is of course, acknowledged for its heroic defense by the Russian people during World War II, this being the location of the most decisive battles on the eastern front. We will visit the memorial on Mamayev Hill, where some of the bloodiest fighting transpired and also spend time at the Stalingrad Battle Panorama Museum. This evening join your fellow travellers for the Welcome Drinks & Dinner as we sail towards Saratov.

Day 3 Saratov. Arrive this morning into Saratov, once home to a large German community, and today stretching 34 kilometres along the Volga. This ancient city is renowned as a centre of higher education and for its connection to Russia's first cosmonaut, Yuri Gagarin, who lived and studied here. During our guided city tour we will visit the Radishchev State Art Museum, which was the first Russian picture gallery outside of St Petersburg and Moscow. Return to the vessel for lunch and continue sailing.

Day 4 Samara. Relax on the vessel's Sun Deck and admire the serenity and majesty of the Zhigulevskie Mountains as we approach the city of Samara, arriving in the early afternoon. After lunch on board we will depart on a tour of this bustling city. Highlights will include the old historic centre and Kuibyshev Square. We will also visit the Space Museum and the fascinating Samara Art Museum. Sail in the late afternoon towards Kazan.

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- The heroic city of Volgograd (Stalingrad) & Mamayev Hill
- Beautiful Kazan, centre of Tatar culture in Russia
- The 16th century Kremlin at Nizhni Novgorod
- Yaroslavl, the oldest city on the Volga River
- A choral concert in the Golden Ring city of Uglich
- Guided tours of the Kremlin, Novodevichy Cemetery & the Old Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow



Kul-sharif Mosque, Kazan



Space Museum, Samara



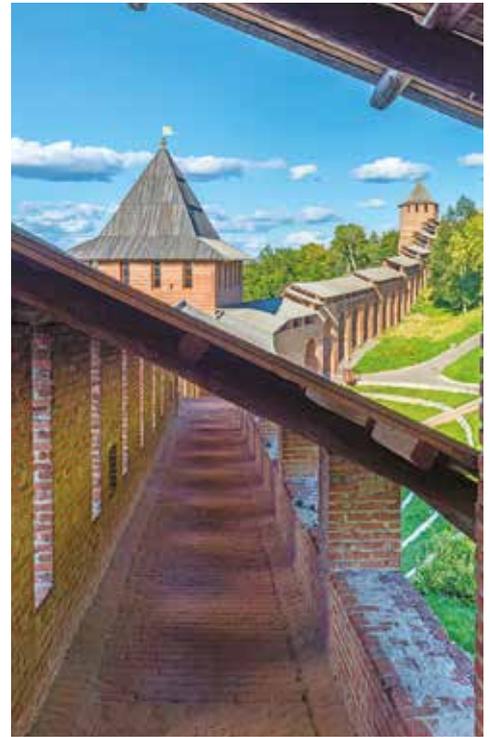
Statue of Mother Russia on Mamayev Hill, Volgograd



St Basil's Cathedral, Red Square, Moscow



Iconostasis from the Church of the Transfiguration, Uglich



Ramparts of the ancient Kremlin, Nizhni Novgorod

Day 5 Kazan. Enjoy a relaxing morning on board as we cruise along the Volga. As we approach the Republic of Tatarstan, Russian Orthodox Churches no longer dominate the river banks, being instead replaced by the occasional Muslim mosque, all beautifully adorned and with their own unique character. After lunch on board, we will explore Kazan, the centre of Tatar culture in Russia. Here, we will visit the white-walled Kazan Kremlin where the famous mosque, Kul-Sherif, neighbours the old Peter and Paul Cathedral. Later today we will enjoy a concert by a local Tatar folk group. Sail in the early evening.

Day 6 Nizhni Novgorod. Enjoy a morning of cruising, arriving this afternoon into Nizhni Novgorod. Formerly named Gorkiy and once a wealthy commercial centre poised on the trade routes to the east, Nizhni Novgorod became a closed city due to the military activity there during the Soviet era. We will learn much of the city's history, including how it became a place of exile for political prisoners and also have the opportunity to walk the ramparts of the 16th century Kremlin with its 13 towers and spectacular views. We will visit a number of the city's elaborately painted churches. Tonight we will be treated by a concert from a local children's folk group and experience a traditional Russian dinner with vodka tasting.

Day 7 Cruising. Today we can relax on board and watch the scenery pass by as we wend our way towards Yaroslavl. Enjoy some onboard activities and attend a fascinating talk by our Guest Speaker.

Day 8 Yaroslavl. This morning visit the oldest city on the Volga River, Yaroslavl, a World Heritage Site. Visit the Church of St. Elijah the Prophet, featuring detailed frescoes and icons. Here, you will be treated to a stirring a capella choir performance. Afterwards there will be time to experience the lively farm market before reboarding the Volga Dream. Alternatively, join an excursion to the Governor's Palace, a living museum of Russian art, history and culture.

Day 9 Uglich. We will arrive this morning into Uglich, a city that dates back to the 10th century. Our walking tour of this Golden Ring city will include the Chapel of Dmitry, a 17th-century treasure built on the site where Ivan the Terrible's 10-year old son met his death. We will also visit the Church of the Transfiguration, noted for its beautiful iconostasis, and attend a choral musical concert. Spend a leisurely afternoon on board cruising towards Moscow. This evening join your fellow travellers in the lounge for the Captain's Farewell Drinks & Dinner.

Day 10 Moscow. Disembark today after breakfast and transfer by coach to the city centre for a tour of Russia's dynamic capital city, including Red Square with its iconic St Basil's Cathedral and GUM department store. We will continue to our hotel for lunch and check in for our two night stay. This

afternoon, our guided tour will include the glorious Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, followed by a visit to the fascinating Novodevichy Cemetery. The cemetery holds the tombs of notable Russian authors, musicians, playwrights and poets, as well as political leaders and scientists. Return to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure with dinner under your own arrangements.

Day 11 Moscow. After breakfast at the hotel we will depart for a visit to the world famous Kremlin and its Armory Museum, consisting of Tsarist thrones, ceremonial crowns, coaches and gifts of state. View the ornate gems of the Diamond Fund, including Catherine the Great's diamond-encrusted coronation crown and the 190 Orlov diamond. Also visit the Square of Three Cathedrals (including entrance to one Cathedral). After lunch in a local restaurant we will visit the old Tretyakov Gallery to view its extraordinary and diverse collection of Russian art, from 12th century icons to 20th century paintings. Return to your hotel and later gather for our final dinner together.

Day 12 Moscow to London. This morning enjoy breakfast at the hotel before transferring to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE UP TO £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cabin Description	Deck	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Standard twin	Cabin	£4295	£4095
Superior twin	Main	£4795	£4595
Deluxe double	Promenade	£5195	£4895
Junior suite double	Promenade/Sun	£5595	£5295
Superior stateroom twin	Sun	£6195	£5795
Deluxe junior suite double	Sun	£6595	£6195
Owner's suite	Promenade	£6995	£6595
Standard single	Promenade	£4395	£4195
Deluxe single	Sun	£4795	£4595
Standard twin for sole use	Cabin	£6995	£6795
Deluxe double for sole use	Promenade	£7495	£7295

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, nine nights aboard the MS Volga Dream on full board basis, house wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, welcome bottle of champagne (deluxe cabins and suites only), shore excursions as described, two nights hotel accommodation in Moscow with breakfast, lunch on Days 10 & 11, dinner on Day 11, gratuities, Tour Manager, Guest Speaker, transfers, port taxes, UK airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Russian visa, dinner on Day 10.

NB. Ports, itinerary, excursions & entrance timings are subject to change.

A RUSSIAN ODYSSEY

A cultural journey through the heartland of Russia, from Moscow to St Petersburg with Professor Ludmilla Selezneva

22nd May to 3rd June 2019

Join us aboard the MS Volga Dream as we travel in comfort and style from the imposing city of Moscow to magnificent St Petersburg. Russia's two most famous cities are also the greatest repositories of Russian art and architecture, Moscow, the Medieval and 20th century capital, has a wonderful heritage of early buildings while St. Petersburg, the creation of Peter the Great, benefited from the inspiration of Europe's greatest 18th century architects and craftsmen. We have allowed ample time in both cities to explore their riches and have arranged special early entrances to the Hermitage in St Petersburg and the Armoury in Moscow.

Our cruise in between the great cities of the Tsars includes rural interludes through the delightful Russian countryside to the magical Golden Ring cities of Holy Russia which still preserve their Medieval Kremlins, fortified monasteries and beautiful cathedrals and churches. In between the towns and villages we will sail past a rolling landscape of farms and silver birch woods dotted with villages and hamlets. The combination of history and art, together with the insight into modern Russia of today, makes for an in-depth and all-encompassing trip.



Church of St Dmitry on the Blood, Uglich

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Opportunity to attend optional evenings of music ashore in St Petersburg & Moscow
- Specially arranged early entrances to the Hermitage & State Armoury
- Guided tours of the Kremlin, Novodevichy Cemetery & the Old Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow
- Guided visits to Peterhof, Hermitage, Catherine's Palace & the State Russian Museum in St Petersburg
- Concert by a famous Spiritual choir in Yaroslavl

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Moscow, Russia. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival, transfer to the MS Volga Dream and embark.

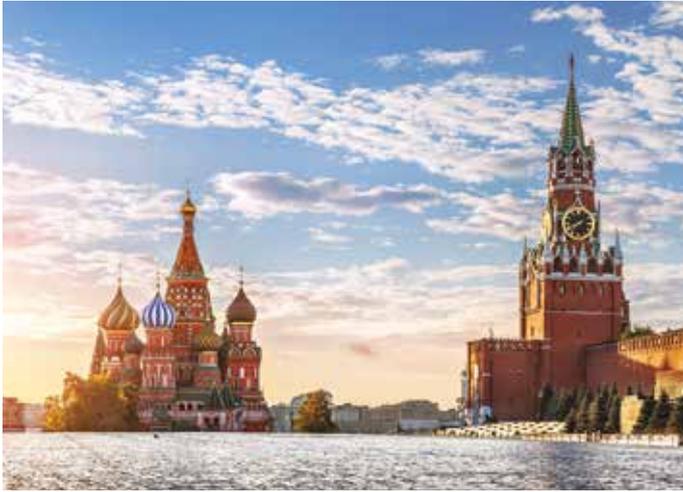
Day 2 Moscow. Begin your day with a tour of the Old Tretyakov gallery to view its extraordinary collection of Russian art, ranging from 12th century icons to 20th century paintings. Lunch will be in a local restaurant followed by an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively you may wish to join the optional tour to visit the fascinating Tolstoy House Museum, an authentic and atmospheric recreation, laden with original belongings and details that bring to life the long winters which Tolstoy and his family spent here from 1881 to 1901. Return to the ship and tonight enjoy the Captain's Welcome Cocktail & Dinner on board.

Day 3 Moscow. Today we take a trip to see the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour and the beautiful Novodevichy Cemetery. The cemetery holds the tombs of notable Russian authors, musicians, playwrights, and poets, as well as political leaders and scientists. Lunch will be in a local restaurant followed by an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively you may wish to join the optional tour of the Moscow Metro, where you can experience some of the most beautiful metro stations in the world. This evening for those who have pre-booked there will be an optional evening of music ashore at Bolshoi Theatre or similar (*subject to schedules and ticket availability*).

Day 4 Moscow. This morning we plan an early visit to the Kremlin to see the Armoury Museum, with its collection of Tsarist thrones, ceremonial crowns, coaches and gifts of state. View the ornate gems of the Diamond Fund, including Catherine the Great's diamond-encrusted coronation crown and the 190 carat Orlov diamond. Also visit the Square of Three Cathedrals (including entrance to one Cathedral). After lunch in a local restaurant we continue our tour to see Red Square and the GUM department store. Return to the ship and sail in the early evening.

Day 5 Uglich. We arrive this afternoon in Uglich which dates back to the 10th century. A walking tour of this Golden Ring city includes the Chapel of Dimitry, a 17th century treasure built on the site where Ivan the Terrible's 10 year old son met his death. Visit the Church of the Transfiguration, noted for its beautiful iconostasis, and attend a concert of choral music.

Day 6 Yaroslavl. This morning we visit the oldest city on the Volga River, Yaroslavl, a World Heritage Site. Visit the Church of St. Elijah the Prophet,



St Basil's Cathedral and Spasskaya Tower in Moscow's Red Square



The Grand Cascade at Peterhof, St Petersburg



Cathedral of the Assumption, Yaroslavl



Golden Drawing Room in the Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg



Open-air Museum of Architecture, Kizhi Island

featuring detailed frescoes and icons. Here, you will be treated to a stirring a cappella choir performance. Afterwards there will be time to experience the lively farm market before returning to the MS Volga Dream. Alternatively, join an excursion to the Governor's Palace, a living museum of Russian art, history and culture.

Day 7 Goritsy. Early this morning we cross Lake Beloye, or the White Lake, formerly known as the "Tsar's fishing grounds". Arrive in the peaceful village of Goritsy to tour the fortress-like Kirillov-Belozersky Monastery with magnificent frescoes by one of the Russia's most renowned icon painters. Return to the ship for a late lunch and sail.

Day 8 Kizhi. This afternoon we will explore the tiny, picturesque island of Kizhi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Lake Onega. The open-air Museum of Architecture includes the Church of the Transfiguration, a unique onion-domed masterpiece built without a single metal nail and resembling something from a Russian fairy tale.

Day 9 Svir River & the Island of Svirstroy. Be on the deck as we navigate the Svir River toward Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest freshwater lake, past a shoreline dotted with graceful willows, alder trees and stately pines. Step ashore for a visit to the village of Svirstroy to experience daily life in this peaceful rural hamlet.

Day 10 St Petersburg. We will begin today at the meticulously restored Peterhof, St. Petersburg's most famous and spectacular Imperial estate, often cited as the "Versailles of Russia". Visit Bath Cottage and stroll in the vast Lower Park with its 176 fountains of various forms and styles, four cascades, and numerous gilded statues of ancient gods and heroes. After lunch in a local restaurant we will return to St. Petersburg by hydrofoil and visit the State Russian Museum which contains unique collections of the Russian art, from icon-painting to avant-garde and socialist realism.

Day 11 St Petersburg. This morning we have arranged an early entrance to visit the famed Hermitage Museum thus avoiding the crowds. This former residence of the Russian Tsars has 400 rooms and contains spectacular examples of nearly all schools of Western art. Proceed to the Gold rooms of the Hermitage which are closed to the general public and see the amazing collection of Scythian gold and Tsarist jewellery. After lunch in a local restaurant, you can choose to remain in the city and sightsee at leisure or return to the MS Volga Dream and relax on board. For those

who have pre-booked, there will be an optional music evening ashore at Mariinsky Theatre or similar (*subject to schedules and availability*).

Day 12 St Petersburg. This morning we drive to Tsar's Village for a specially arranged visit to Catherine Palace. See the exquisitely restored Amber Room and stroll in the formal gardens. Lunch will be in a local restaurant followed by an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively you may wish to join the optional tour to see the magnificent Yusupov Palace, once the residence of the wealthiest and most respected family in Imperial Russia, which saw one of the most dramatic episodes in Russia's history – the murder of Grigory Rasputin. This evening enjoy your Farewell Dinner on board.

Day 13 St Petersburg to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE UP TO £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cabin Description	Deck	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Standard twin	Cabin	£4495	£4295
Superior twin	Main	£4995	£4795
Deluxe double	Promenade	£5295	£4995
Junior suite double	Promenade/Sun	£5595	£5295
Superior stateroom twin	Sun	£6095	£5695
Deluxe junior suite double	Sun	£6395	£5995
Owner's suite	Promenade	£7195	£6795
Standard single	Promenade	£4595	£4395
Deluxe single	Sun	£4895	£4695
Standard twin for sole use	Cabin	£7995	£7795
Deluxe double for sole use	Promenade	£9195	£8995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Volga Dream on full board basis, complimentary house wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions as described, gratuities, Tour Manager, Guest Speaker, transfers, welcome bottle of champagne (deluxe cabins and suites only), port taxes, UK airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Russian visa, optional tours as described.

NB. Excursions, music events and performance days are subject to change depending on availability, schedules and entrance time to venues. Details of music programmes and prices will be available approximately two months prior to departure, full information will be sent as soon as received by our Russian agents. Ports and itinerary are subject to change.

THE GLORIES OF RUSSIA

A captivating river cruise linking St Petersburg and Moscow including exclusive cultural & musical highlights with London Festival Opera & Guest Speaker, Professor Ludmilla Selezneva

14th to 26th September 2019

Travel with us aboard the luxurious MS Volga Dream on this exclusive charter that promises to be a truly inspiring journey in Russia's heartland, with its rich cultural heritage, wonderful architecture and dramatic history. We begin in St Petersburg, one of the world's most beautiful cities and cruise to Moscow, a city full of contrasts and energy. Whilst cruising between Russia's two greatest cities we will travel through quieter rural landscapes and also visit unique Uglich, Yaroslavl and Kizhi. This is an enchanting voyage through a land that has inspired so many writers and musicians over the centuries.



We have arranged for some memorable excursions for our journey along the Volga including specially arranged early entrances to the Hermitage and the Armoury Museum at the Kremlin and to further enhance the journey we will be accompanied by London Festival Opera who will perform a selection of wonderful Russian repertoires. Our Guest Speaker, Ludmilla Selezneva will complete the experience with fascinating talks on all things Russian, especially its history and peoples.

With such a wealth of the arts, history and architecture, a journey to Russia can be a challenge to plan. However the beauty of this trip is that over the course of only 13 days you will have gained a vast amount of knowledge in the most comfortable means possible. The shore excursions, talks by Ludmilla and music performances by London Festival Opera will provide you with a unique insight into Russian life, both past and present, and altogether make for an unforgettable trip.

London Festival Opera Performances

We are delighted to be joined by London Festival Opera who bring together artists from the major British opera companies including the Royal Opera House, English National Opera and Glyndebourne Festival Opera. The company has a considerable reputation and has appeared in some of the world's leading opera houses. Artistic Director, Philip Blake-Jones will provide a comprehensive programme during our time sailing and whilst moored, the repertoire planned being:-



- *Soirée d'Opéra*: Featuring the operas of Mozart, Verdi, Tchaikovsky, Saint-Saëns & Bizet
- *Opera Gala*: Arias & ensembles from the works of Verdi, Offenbach, Tchaikovsky & Puccini
- *Russian Gala*: Featuring highlights from Tchaikovsky's 'Eugene Onegin' & songs by Rachmaninov & Shostakovich. The artists will appear costume for this performance
- *Farewell Opera Gala*: Featuring the works of Mozart, Donizetti, Verdi, Tchaikovsky & Rachmaninov



Catherine Palace, St Petersburg



Icon, Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, Goritsy

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Onboard costumed performances by London Festival Opera
- Opportunity to attend optional evenings of music ashore in St Petersburg & Moscow
- Specially arranged early entrances to the Hermitage and State Armoury
- Guided tours of the Diamond Fund, the Old Tretyakov Gallery and the Pushkin Museum
- Visits to Peterhof, Catherine Palace, Yusupov Palace, the Kremlin, Red Square, and Novodevichy cemetery
- Concert of a famous Spiritual choir in Yaroslavl



Moskva River and the Moscow Kremlin



Cathedral of the Transfiguration, Uglich



Lake Ladoga



Moscow's ornate metro

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Day 2 St Petersburg. Begin today at the meticulously restored Peterhof, St. Petersburg's most famous and spectacular Imperial estate, often cited as the "Versailles of Russia". Visit Bath Cottage and stroll in the vast Lower Park with its 176 fountains of various forms and styles, four cascades, and numerous gilded statues of ancient gods and heroes. Afterwards, return to St. Petersburg by hydrofoil where we will have lunch in a local restaurant. This afternoon we will visit the wonderful Fabergé Museum at Shuvalov Palace. This beautiful museum contains the world's largest collection of works by Carl Fabergé, including nine of the famous Imperial Easter Eggs, regarded not only as the finest jewelled works of art, but also as unique



The Volga from the Transfiguration Monastery Bell Tower, Yaroslavl

historical artifacts. The museum's collection also includes decorative and applied works made by the Russian masters of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Return to the ship, and after dinner this evening enjoy an onboard performance by London Festival Opera.

Day 3 St Petersburg. This morning drive to Tsar's Village for a visit to Catherine Palace. See the exquisitely restored Amber Room and stroll in the formal gardens. We will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant and then in the afternoon we visit the magnificent Yusupov Palace, once the residence of the wealthiest and most respected family in Imperial Russia, which saw one of the most dramatic episodes in Russia's history – the murder of Grigory Rasputin. Return to the ship for a relaxing evening on board or for those who have pre-booked there will be an optional musical evening ashore at the Mariinsky Theatre or similar (*subject to schedules and availability*).

Day 4 St Petersburg. This morning we visit the famed Hermitage Museum where we have an early entrance allowing us to enjoy the masterpieces away from the crowds. This former residence of the Russian Tsars has 400 rooms and features spectacular examples of nearly all schools of Western art. Proceed to the Gold Rooms of the Hermitage, (*subject to permission*) which are closed to the general public, to see the amazing collection of Scythian gold and Tsarist jewellery. After lunch in a local restaurant you can relax as we take a ceremonial canal cruise, offering fantastic views of St. Petersburg's greatest landmarks, including the Peter and Paul Fortress, the Winter Palace and the Old Stock Exchange on Vasilyevsky Island, as well as St. Isaac's Cathedral and the Admiralty. Return to the MS Volga Dream this evening as we begin our cruise.

Day 5 Svirstroy & The Svir River. This morning step ashore for a brief visit to the peaceful village of Svirstroy to experience daily life in this typical rural hamlet. Continue cruising as we navigate the Svir River toward Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest freshwater lake, past a shoreline dotted with graceful willows, alder trees and stately pines. This afternoon enjoy a second performance by London Festival Opera on board.



Winter Palace Square and the Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg

Day 6 Kizhi. Today we explore the tiny, picturesque island of Kizhi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Lake Onega. The open-air Museum of Architecture includes the Church of the Transfiguration, a unique onion-domed masterpiece built without a single metal nail and resembling something from a Russian fairy tale.

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Day 9 Uglich. We arrive this afternoon in Uglich, dating back to the 10th century. A walking tour of this Golden Ring city includes the Chapel of Dimitry, a 17th century treasure built on the site where Ivan the Terrible's 10 year old son met his death. Visit the Church of the Transfiguration, noted for its beautiful iconostasis, and attend a concert of choral music.

Day 10 Moscow. We arrive into Moscow mid-morning and after an early lunch on board will depart for a tour to see Red Square with its iconic St Basil's Cathedral and GUM department store. The remainder of the afternoon will be at leisure or you may wish to join an optional guided tour of the Moscow Metro, where you can experience some of the most beautiful metro stations in the world. This evening for those who have pre-booked, there will be an optional evening of music ashore at the Bolshoi Theatre or similar (subject to schedules and ticket availability).

Day 11 Moscow. This morning we depart for an early visit to the Kremlin to see the Armoury Museum with its collection of Tsarist thrones, ceremonial crowns, coaches and gifts of state. View the ornate gems of the Diamond Fund, including Catherine the Great's diamond-encrusted coronation crown and the 190 carat Orlov diamond. Also visit the Square of Three Cathedrals (including entrance to one Cathedral). After lunch in a local restaurant we continue on to visit the Old Tretyakov gallery to view its

extraordinary collection of Russian art, ranging from 12th century icons to 20th century paintings. Return to the ship and relax on board this evening.

Day 12 Moscow. This morning we take a trip to see the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour and the fascinating Novodevichy Cemetery. The cemetery holds the tombs of notable Russian authors, musicians, playwrights, and poets, as well as political leaders and scientists. After lunch in a local restaurant we will visit the Pushkin Museum, the largest museum of European art in Moscow and home to works by Van Gogh, Gauguin, Picasso and Matisse. Return to your ship and this evening enjoy the Farewell Dinner on board with your fellow guests, followed by a final highlight performance by London Festival Opera..

Day 13 Moscow to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE UP TO £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

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Superior twin	Main	£5495	£5295
Deluxe double	Promenade	£5795	£5495
Junior suite double	Promenade/Sun	£6095	£5795
Superior stateroom twin	Sun	£6595	£6195
Deluxe junior suite double	Sun	£6895	£6495
Owner's suite	Promenade	£7695	£7295
Standard single	Promenade	£5095	£4895
Deluxe single	Sun	£5395	£5195
Standard twin for sole use	Cabin	£8195	£7995
Deluxe double for sole use	Promenade	£9395	£9195

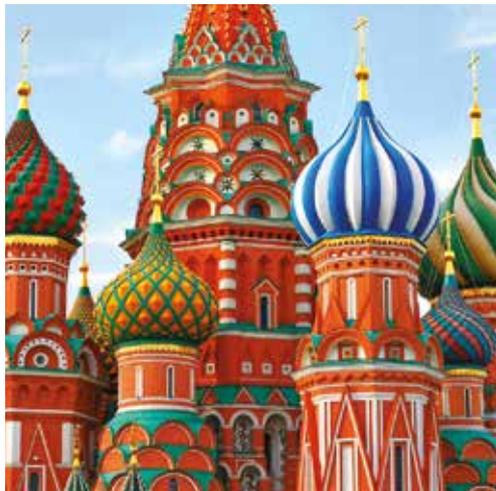
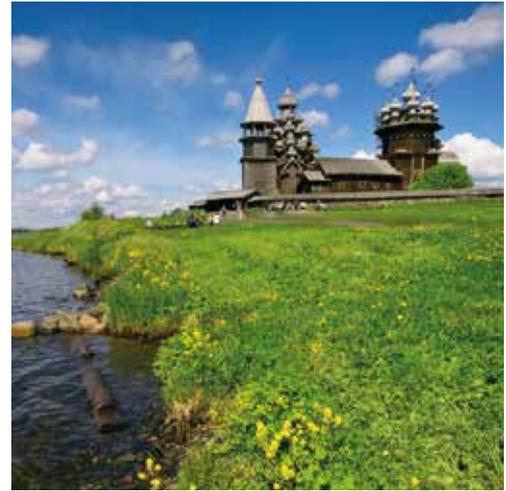
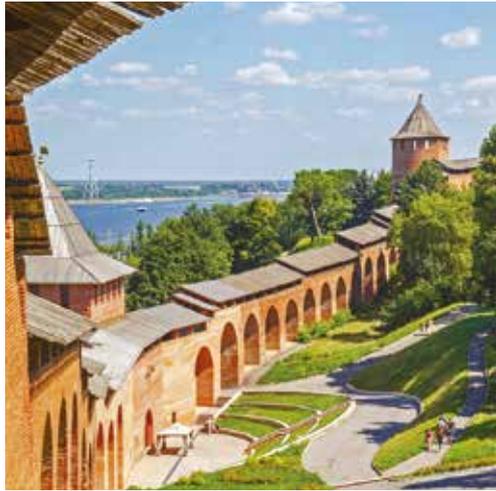
Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, 12 nights aboard the MS Volga Dream on full board basis, complimentary house wine and soft drinks with lunch and dinner, shore excursions as described, music performances on board, gratuities, Tour Manager, Guest Speaker, transfers, welcome bottle of champagne (deluxe cabins and suites only), port taxes, UK airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Russian visa, optional tours as described.

NB. Excursions, music events and performance days subject to change depending on availability, schedules and entrance time to venues. Details of music programmes and prices will be available approximately 2 months prior to departure, full information will be sent as soon as received by our Russian agents. Ports and itinerary are subject to change.



Church of the Intercession, Kizhi Island



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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Itinerary subject to change.
Cover: Cathedral of the Transfiguration in Uglich

