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OFFER - SAVE  
UP TO  
**£400**  
PER PERSON

# A RUSSIAN ODYSSEY

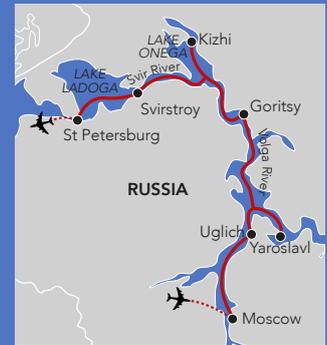
A cultural journey through the heartland of Russia  
from Moscow to St Petersburg  
with Professor Ludmilla Selezneva

22<sup>nd</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019



NOBLE CALEDONIA

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.



## 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



St Basil's Cathedral, Red Square, Moscow



Frescoes from the Church of St Elijah the Prophet, Yaroslavl



The Grand Cascade at Peterhof, St Petersburg



## Guest Speaker - Professor Ludmilla Selezneva

We are delighted that Professor Ludmilla Selezneva, one of our most popular Guest Speakers will be joining us on board for this charter. 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.

## 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.

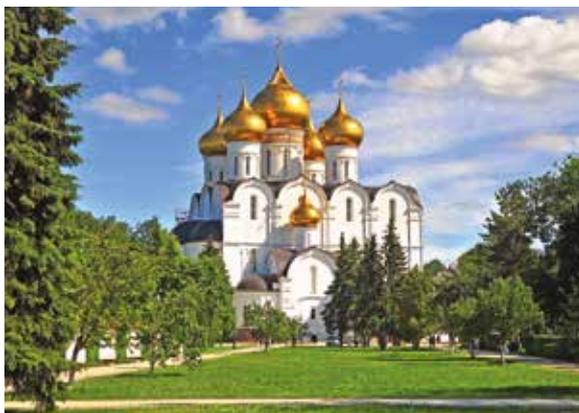
**Day 5 Uglich.** We arrive this afternoon in Uglich which dates back to the 10th century. A walking tour of this Golden Ring city includes the Chapel of Dimitry, a 17th century treasure built on the site where Ivan the Terrible's 10 year old son met his death. Visit the Church of the Transfiguration, 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, 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 Belye, or the White Lake, formerly known as the "Tsar's fishing grounds". Arrive in the peaceful village



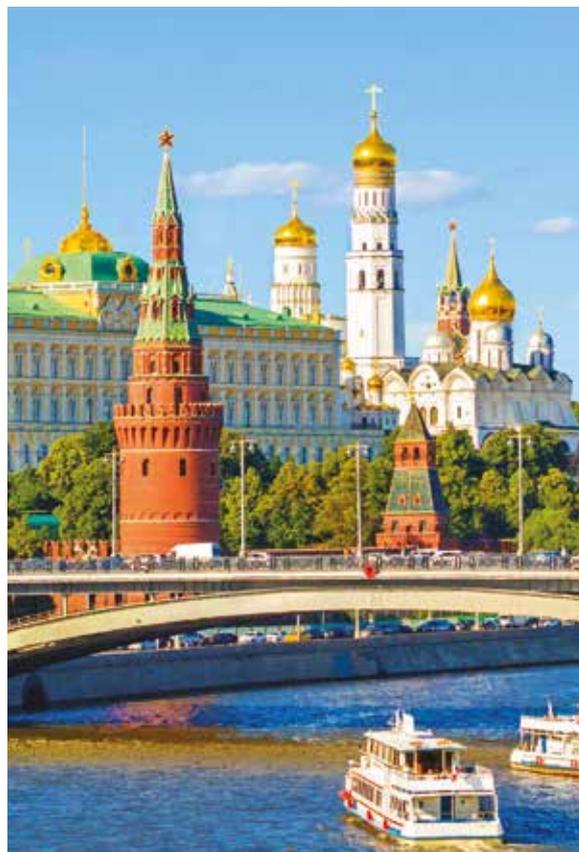
White Lake and Kirillov-Belozersky Monastery



Cathedral of the Assumption, Yaroslavl



Golden Drawing Room in the Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg



Moscow Kremlin and Moscva River

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	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
Deluxe single	Sun	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
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 • 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.*



## MS VOLGA DREAM

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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).



Owner's Suite



Deluxe Junior Suite



Superior Twin Cabin

## 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.



Restaurant



Bar



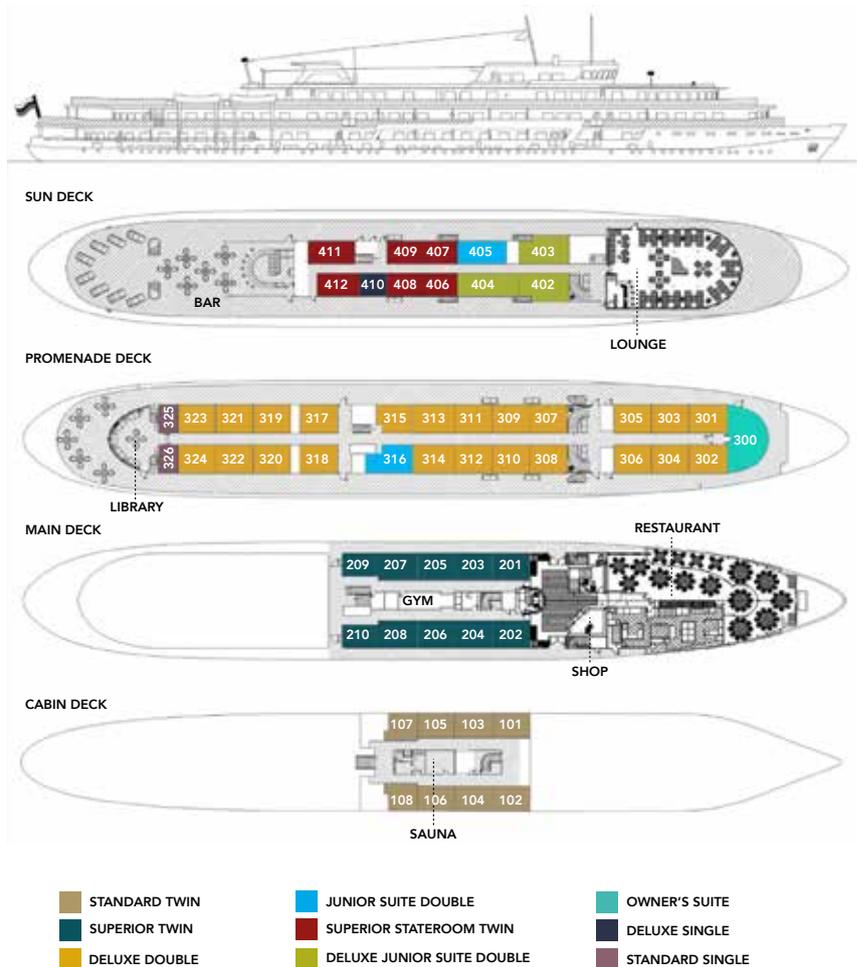
Lounge

## 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, matrioshka 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.



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Itinerary and accommodation subject to change. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.

Cover image: Church of the Intercession, Kizhi island and Lake Onega, from the bell tower