

WATERWAYS OF THE TSARS

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PER PERSON

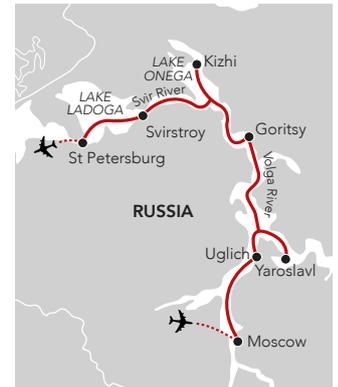
A river cruise from Moscow to St Petersburg
aboard the Volga Dream
with Guest Speaker Professor Ludmilla Selezneva

16th to 28th September 2021



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Join us as we travel in comfort and style from the imposing city of Moscow to magnificent St Petersburg. Russia's two most famous cities are the greatest repositories of Russian art and architecture and we will have the benefit of a three night stay in a centrally located, five star hotel in each of these enthralling cities with included excursions as well as ample time at leisure to explore the many riches. Moscow, the fascinating capital has a wealth of wonderful Medieval and modern buildings and our guided excursions will include the Tretyakov Gallery, the Kremlin and St Basil's Cathedral. St Petersburg, the creation of Peter the Great, benefited from the inspiration of Europe's greatest 18th century architects and craftsmen and here our visits will include the wonderful Hermitage Museum and Catherine Palace.



Our cruise aboard the MS Volga Dream between these 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, including the Church of Transfiguration at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kizhi. As we cruise along the 'Mother Volga' 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 talks from Professor Ludmilla Selezneva and the insight into modern Russia of today, makes for an in-depth and all-encompassing trip.

YOUR ACCOMMODATION



Hotel exterior overlooking the Moskva River



Superior Twin Room

Hotel Baltshug Kempinski – Moscow

A stone's throw away and with fantastic views of both the Kremlin and St Basil's Cathedral, The Baltshug Kempinski merges classic and contemporary styles reflecting the hotel's prominent past and the modern amenities and comfort it now affords. The building was originally used as lodging for the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, but has since been entirely renovated and redesigned. Its 225 opulent rooms are equipped with soft furnishings, delicate fabrics and marble bathrooms and the hotel boasts impressive amenities including a beauty centre, fitness room and sizeable indoor pool. There is also a pleasant café, grill restaurant and Lobby Lounge Bar where High Tea is served as well a wide selection of drinks.



Panoramic Bellevue Restaurant



Superior Room

Kempinski Hotel Moika 22 – St Petersburg

Situated in the heart of the city on the Moika River, in an aristocratic mansion built in 1853, Kempinski Hotel Moika 22 is flanked by Palace Square and the Hermitage Museum. The hotel is just five minutes' walk from Nevsky Prospect and close to all major sights and shopping and boasts 200 rooms and suites, all lavishly decorated with high quality furnishings. The facilities include a brasserie with 360 degree views of the city along with four other restaurants and bars, a tea room serving English or Russian style, a spa and fitness centre with steam room/hammam and highly personalised and exceptional service as standard.

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 in Russia will be one of the many highlights of our cruise 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.

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Three nights at a centrally located hotel in the fascinating cities of Moscow and St Petersburg
- Specially arranged early entrances to the Hermitage and State Armoury
- Guided tours of the Old Tretyakov Gallery, the Kremlin and Novodevichy Cemetery in Moscow
- Exclusive musical performance and a further tour at the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg
- Guided visits to Peterhof, the Faberge Museum and Catherine Palace in St Petersburg



Lake Onega and the Church of the Transfiguration, Kizhi Island



Gold Room in the Hermitage, St Petersburg



Lake Ladoga



Grand Cascade in Peterhof Palace, St-Petersburg

The Itinerary

Day 1 London Heathrow to Moscow, Russia. Fly by scheduled flight to Moscow. On arrival, transfer to Hotel Baltshug Kempinski (or similar) for a three night stay. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner at our hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 2 Moscow. Begin your day with a tour of the 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, after which the afternoon will be 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 Tolstoy and his family spent here from 1881 to 1901. Return to the hotel where we will enjoy dinner later this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Moscow. This morning we have planned 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. 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, St Basil's Cathedral (outside view) and the GUM department store. Return to our hotel for dinner this evening. Later tonight, 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). (B, L, D)

Day 4 Embark the MS Volga Dream in Moscow. For those interested, there will be an optional early tour of the Moscow Metro this morning. All guests will check out of the hotel after breakfast for 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. We will then enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before transferring to the MS Volga Dream and embarking for our cruise. Tonight, enjoy the Captain's welcome cocktail and dinner on board. (B, L, D)

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. (B, L, D)

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. Continue on to the Governor's Palace,

a living museum of Russian art, history and culture where we will be treated to a stirring a capella choir performance. Afterwards there will be time to experience the lively farm market before re-boarding the Volga Dream. (B, L, D)

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 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. (B, L, D)

Day 8 Kizhi. This afternoon we explore the tiny, picturesque island of Kizhi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on the 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 out of a Russian fairy tale. (B, L, D)

Day 9 Svir River & 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. Later, the MS Volga Dream will set sail to St Petersburg. (B, L, D)

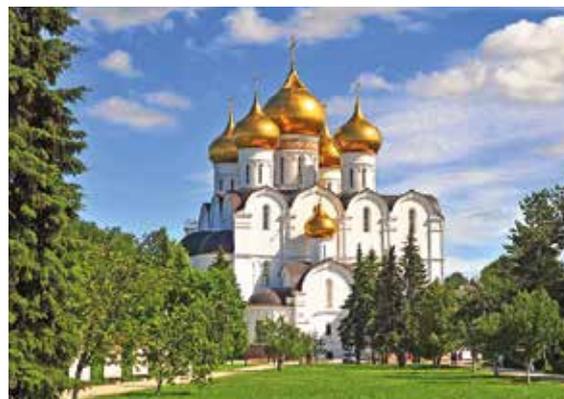
Day 10 Disembark the Volga Dream in St Petersburg. After breakfast aboard the Volga Dream, disembark and continue to the meticulously restored Peterhof, St Petersburg's most famous and spectacular Imperial estate which is often cited as the "Versailles of Russia". Visit one of the small cottages and stroll in the vast Lower Park with its 176 fountains of various forms and styles,



White Lake and Kirillov-Belozersky Monastery, Goritsy



Moscow's ornate metro



Cathedral of the Assumption, Yaroslavl



Iconostasis from the Church of the Transfiguration, Uglich

four cascades, and numerous gilded statues of ancient gods and heroes. We will take a hydrofoil to a local restaurant where we will enjoy lunch before transferring to the Kempinski Hotel Moika 22 (or similar) for our three night stay. This evening we will travel to the Hermitage Museum for an exclusive musical performance by a symphony orchestra in sumptuous surroundings. Return to the hotel for dinner. **(B, L, D)**

Day 11 St Petersburg. This morning we will return to the famed Hermitage Museum where an early entrance has been arranged to avoid the crowds. This former residence of the Russian Tsars has 400 rooms and contains spectacular examples of nearly all schools of Western art. Here we will hopefully proceed to the Gold Room to see its incredible collection of Scythian gold (*subject to permission*). We will have lunch in a local restaurant and then visit the fascinating Faberge Museum at Shuvalov Palace, including its nine Imperial Easter eggs. Return to the hotel for dinner. For those who have pre-booked, there will be an optional music evening ashore at Mariinsky Theatre or similar (*subject to schedules and availability*). **(B, L, D)**

Day 12 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. Lunch will be in a local restaurant followed by an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively, you may wish to join an optional excursion 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 farewell drinks and dinner at our hotel. **(B, L, D)**



Moscow Kremlin and Moskva River

Day 13 St Petersburg to London Gatwick. After breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London Gatwick. **(B)**

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cabin Description	Deck	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Standard twin	Cabin	£5295	£4995
Superior twin	Main	£5795	£5495
Deluxe double	Promenade	£5995	£5695
Junior suite double	Promenade/Sun	£6295	£5995
Superior stateroom twin	Sun	£6795	£6495
Deluxe junior suite double	Sun	£7195	£6895
Owner's suite	Promenade	£7895	£7595
Standard single	Promenade	£5395	£5095
Deluxe single	Sun	£5695	£5395
Standard twin for sole use	Cabin	£8295	£7995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Three nights hotel accommodation in Moscow & St Petersburg • Six nights aboard the MS Volga Dream • Meals as shown (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • Wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Russian Visa, optional tours and musical evenings ashore as described.

Important Visa Information: A visa is required for Russia and Noble Caledonia will provide all supporting documentation needed although the process to apply for the visa cannot be started until three months before departure and in some instances can take up to six weeks. To obtain a Russian visa it will be necessary for passengers to attend application centres in London, Manchester or Edinburgh. This information is correct at the time of printing and should the information change, we will be in touch with booked passengers with updated guidelines.



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).



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



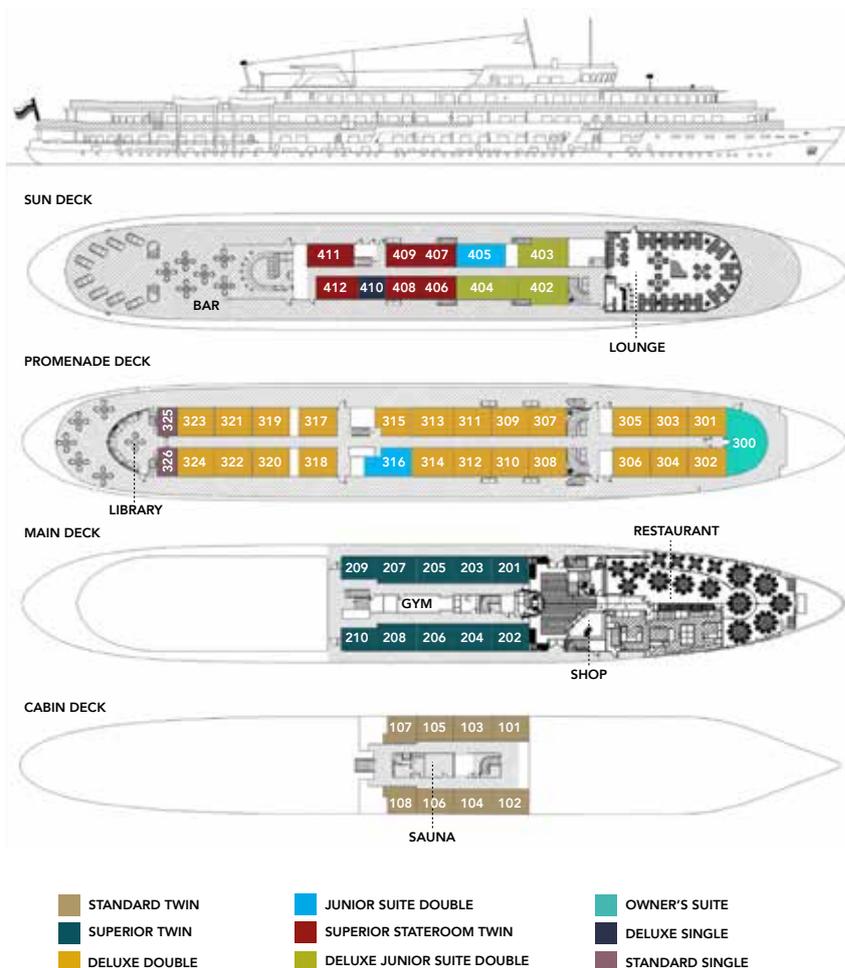
Lounge

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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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. All special offers are subject to availability.

Cover image: Church of St Dmitry on the Blood, Uglich