

VOLGA DREAM

2018 Volga Dream GOLD Program¹⁾

13 days / 12 nights from St. Petersburg to Moscow

Included:

12 nights aboard the luxurious *MS Volga Dream*



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

TRIP DESCRIPTION & HIGHLIGHTS

Volga Dream GOLD combines the best of St. Petersburg and Moscow with a deluxe Volga cruise. This journey is ideal for individual travelers and small groups with a yen to explore Russia's glorious countryside as well as the treasures of its grandest cities.

- Accommodation on board the luxurious Volga Dream in Moscow and St. Petersburg
- Daily sightseeing in small groups that are never larger than 20-25 guests
- St. Petersburg highlights: the magnificent Hermitage, Faberge Museum, Peterhof and Catherine's palace
- Iconic Moscow visit include the Kremlin, Red Square, Armory Museum and Tretyakov Gallery
- All meals aboard the *MS Volga Dream* include house wines, beer and soft drinks
- Russian professors present 4 fascinating talks on the Russia's Russian
- Diverse range of cultural activities aboard the *MS Volga Dream*

June 12, 2018. ST. PETERSBURG

Upon arrival in St. Petersburg, transfer to the awaiting *MS Volga Dream*.

The evening offers an opportunity to meet your guide and fellow guests at our warm-up meeting. Or you may prefer to spend the rest of the day exploring central St. Petersburg independently.

Meals: D

June 13, 2018. ST. PETERSBURG

City Tour / Peter and Paul Fortress / the Hermitage Museum

9:30am – 5:30pm

The day begins with an orientation tour of St. Petersburg that takes you inside the Peter and Paul Fortress, the Romanov family shrine. After lunch, we go to the famed Hermitage Museum, with 400 rooms containing spectacular examples of nearly every school of Western art, including one of the finest collections of French impressionist works.

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

Meals: B, L, D

June 14, 2018. ST. PETERSBURG

Peterhof: Park and Small Cottage



10:00am – 3:00pm

The day begins at the meticulously restored Peterhof, St. Petersburg's most famous and spectacular Imperial estate, often cited as the Versailles of Russia. Visit one of the authentic Small Cottages and stroll in the vast Lower Park with its 176 different fountains and four cascades. There are majestic palaces and numerous gilded statues of ancient gods and heroes.

The remainder of the day is left open for you to explore at leisure.

Meals: B, L, D

June 15, 2018. ST. PETERSBURG

Catherine's Palace / Amber Room / Faberge museum



08:00am – 4:00pm

Drive to Catherine the Great's Palace, which houses the extraordinary Amber Room. Its six tons of solid amber are deftly carved and framed in a gold leaf. Once dubbed the "eighth wonder of the world," the room was stripped by the Nazis in 1941, but majestically rebuilt in honour of St. Petersburg's 300th birthday.

After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit the Faberge museum, containing the world's largest collection of works by Carl Faberge, including 9 Easter eggs commissioned by the Russian royal family.

Then we make for the awaiting luxurious *MS Volga Dream* and begin our voyage along Russia's glorious waterways. To get the cruise started in style, you are cordially invited to the Captain's welcome reception and dinner.

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

Meals: B, L, D

June 16, 2018. SVIRSTROY

The highlight of your day in Svirstroy is being invited into a local resident's home. Warm and welcoming Svirstroy villagers will offer tea with jam and "pirozhkie" (local pies). They will enthusiastically tell you all about Russian tradition, lifestyle and the attractions of Svirstroy village while proudly showing off their homes and kitchen gardens. After tea hop on a bus for a tour of the nearby town to see the monument of the WWII and visit a local primary school.

Volga Dream Experience: Barbeque on the Open Deck

Meals: B, L, D



June 17, 2018. KIZHI

Kareliya is a region that must be seen to be believed, it spans all the way from St. Petersburg to the Arctic Circle, a vast wilderness of forest and water. Lake Onega is fed by 58 rivers and is home to 1,369 islands, including our stop, Kizhi with its quaint collection of ancient wooden houses and windmills including the famous and remarkable Transfiguration church, built in 1714 without a single nail being used.

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

Meals: B, L, D

June 18, 2018. GORITSY

We sail across Lake Belye, or the White Lake, once the "tsar's fishing grounds". After lunch we arrive in the idyllic village of Goritsy for a guided tour of the fortress-like Kirillov-Belozersky Monastery with its magnificent frescoes by one of Russia's most renowned icon painters.

Volga Dream Experience: Russian Dinner with Vodka Tasting

Meals: B, L, D



June 19, 2018. YAROSLAVL

Founded in 1010, Yaroslavl is one of central Russia's oldest cities and boasts the Volga's first port. There is much to see: the Spassky Monastery houses the Transfiguration of the Savior and the Church of Elijah the Prophet, an impressive collection of mosaics. Take part in a costumed reception at the governor's house before re-boarding the *MS Volga Dream* in time for lunch.

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

Meals: B, L, D

June 20, 2018. UGLICH

After a full day of cruising through idyllic forested countryside, we tie up in the ancient trading town of Uglich, a key point in 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. Then an enchanting concert of choral music performed in St. John's Church.

Volga Dream Experience: Farewell Dinner

Meals: B, L, D



June 21, 2018. MOSCOW

City tour / Novodevichi Cemetery / Metro Ride



12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

The day begins with an orientation tour of Moscow city before proceeding to the famous Novodevichi Cemetery, where well-known Russian authors, musicians, playwrights, and poets, are buried along with famous actors, political leaders, and scientists.

Take the rest of the afternoon at your leisure, explore Moscow on your own or seek out a cultural performance at one of the city's world-class venues.

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

Meals: B, L, D

June 22, 2018. MOSCOW
Kremlin / Armoury Museum



9:30 am – 2:30 pm

The morning takes you into the Kremlin to visit the Armoury Museum and its renewed collection of opulent coronation finery, hand-forged armour and weapons, royal carriages and sleighs. Continue to the beautifully frescoed 15th-century Assumption and Archangel Cathedrals.

The rest of the day is left open for independent exploration or you may choose from several optional tours.

Meals: B, L, D

June 23, 2018. MOSCOW
Tretyakov Gallery / Continuation of the City Tour: Cathedral of Christ the Savior



10:00 am – 3:00 pm

The day begins at the famous Tretyakov Gallery, the first museum dedicated exclusively to Russian fine art, then a Moscow city tour and a visit to the Cathedral of Christ.

The evening free for independent exploration of Moscow, or perhaps seek out a cultural performance at one of the city's many world class venues.

Meals: B, L, D

June 24, 2018. MOSCOW

Transfer to the airport for your flight.

Meals: B

All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary. Weather, traffic or seasonal events may affect your sightseeing program.