

# Places you visit & Russian Rhapsody

## Places you visit



### Day 1-3: Moscow

The capital of Russia, Moscow is an imposing and dynamic city undergoing tremendous changes. It is a city of contrasts – the grandeur and scale of Red Square and the Kremlin, the fabulous treasures of the tsars in the Armoury Museum coupled with designer boutiques, world-class restaurants and a buzzing night-life. You will take a ride on the city's Metro system. See the Bolshoi Theatre, Lomonosov University and St Basil's Cathedral with its ornate and colourful onion domes. Visit Red Square and during free time, explore or shop in the famed GUM department store. In the evening, enjoy a circus or folkloric performance. On day three, visit the Kremlin with its



St Petersburg, St Isaac's Cathedral

distinctive red-brick walls, towers, cathedrals and palaces and tour the Armoury Museum, featuring a stunning collection of royal treasures, including jewels, crowns and armour.

### Day 4: Moscow & Moscow Canal

This morning is free to explore Moscow or you may join an optional tour to Sergiev Posad. Your ship departs after lunch for a scenic cruise along the Moscow Canal.

### Day 5: Uglich

Spend the morning cruising and disembark after lunch at provincial Uglich, one of Russia's Golden Ring cities. Uglich was founded in 1148 and boasts many of Russia's most beautiful churches and cathedrals. Visit the Church of St Dmitry on the Blood, built on the site where Ivan the Terrible's son Dmitry mysteriously died. Depart before dinner and cruise through the night.

### Day 6: Yaroslavl

Arrive this morning in Yaroslavl, an important Volga port, founded in 1010 by Prince Yaroslavl the Wise. It stretches along the confluence of the Volga and Kotorosl Rivers. You will visit the Church of St Elijah the Prophet, featuring amazingly detailed frescoes and icons and you will be entertained by a traditional choir performance. Free time to shop for handcrafted souvenirs before returning to your ship for lunch.

### Day 7: Goritsy & Volga-Baltic Waterway

Drive through Goritsy, a typical Russian village, to the nearby Kirillo Belozersky Monastery, founded by Saint Cyril in 1397 with the building of two wooden chapels that, today, house an extensive museum. Sail along the Volga-Baltic Waterway, which was completed in 1964 to replace the antiquated Mariinskaya Canal. This system of rivers and canals spans 369km with seven locks and links the Volga River to the Baltic Sea. The Waterway begins in Rybinsk and follows the Svir and Neva Rivers before emptying into the Gulf of Finland in St Petersburg.

### Day 8: Kizhi

You will spend your morning cruising Lake Onega, Europe's second largest lake. Visit the tiny Kizhi Island with its open-air Museum of Architecture, featuring dozens of houses, churches and windmills, located at the northern end of Lake Onega. The three-tiered Transfiguration Church has 22 domes and was built in 1714 without a single nail being used. It represents the ultimate in Russian fairytale architecture.

### Day 9: Scenic Waterways & Mandrogy

Spend a relaxing day cruising across Russia's intricate waterways. Cruise along the scenic Svir River, sailing along the 'Blue Route' as it takes you southwest from Lake Onega. Stop in Mandrogy and take time to explore this

model Russian community. Visit the vodka museum or shop for handicrafts. Cross Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest lake on your way to the River Neva.

### Day 10-13: St Petersburg

Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great as his 'Window to the West', St Petersburg is the most European of Russian cities and one of Europe's loveliest. Laid out in perfect symmetry with boulevards radiating from the centre, the city features a unique balance of Russian and Western European architecture. Spread across 101 islands, 66 canals and 365 bridges, St Petersburg rivals Venice as a magnificent maritime city. You will travel to Pushkin to see the elegant Catherine's Palace with its unique collection of porcelain, antique furniture, bronzes, sculptures. Your city tour of St Petersburg includes Nevsky Prospect, lined with 18<sup>th</sup> century palaces, fashionable shops, restaurants and cafés and St Isaac's Cathedral. Also visit Peter and Paul Fortress, considered the birthplace of the city and the magnificent Winter Palace. Here you will view one of the world's greatest collections of fine art, housed in the Hermitage Museum. Founded in 1764, the Hermitage boasts more than 3 million items in its collection and occupies five buildings along the Neva Embankment. During your stay you attend an evening performance of traditional Russian Ballet or Opera.



St Petersburg, Hermitage

## Russian Rhapsody – 16 days / 15 nights

VIKING PAKHOMOV

Destination	Itinerary
St Petersburg to Moscow via Volgograd	St Petersburg – Volgograd – Saratov – Samara – Ulyanovsk – Kazan – Volga River – Kostroma – Yaroslavl – Uglich – Moscow.
Moscow to St Petersburg via Volgograd	Moscow – Uglich – Yaroslavl – Kostroma – Volga River – Kazan – Ulyanovsk – Samara – Saratov – Volgograd – St Petersburg

Ask your travel agent for details.