

Tufts
UNIVERSITY

Travel-Learn

TWENTY
20
YEARS



Hidden Gems of Russia's Heartland

St. Petersburg to Moscow Aboard *Volga Dream*
with Gregory Carleton, Professor of Russian Studies

June 9 – 19, 2022

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

ENJOY a before-hours tour of the vast Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, founded in 1764 and home to one of the world's greatest art collections, with masterpieces from Italian Renaissance masters and many more gems

EXPERIENCE the imperial treasures of St. Petersburg on special tours, including an exploration of Peter the Great's grandiose complex of palaces and gardens at Peterhof, a behind-the-scenes look at Catherine the Great's luxurious Royal Bathhouse, and an up-close viewing of the iconic, ornate Easter eggs at the Fabergé Museum

SAIL the elegant *Volga Dream* along the scenic waterways of Russia, stepping off in historic Golden Ring towns, where onion-domed churches, colorful wooden cottages, and medieval fortresses abound

EXPLORE less-visited UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Ferapontov Monastery, with its fully preserved 15th-century frescoes from Russian master Dionisy; and the fairy-tale island of Kizhi, with its multi-domed wooden churches, amazingly built entirely without nails

MINGLE with the friendly local residents of the riverside village of Svirstroy, who will share fascinating stories of life since the fall of the Soviet Union

DELIGHT in the stirring voices of an intimate choral ensemble, enhanced by the flawless acoustics at the Cathedral of the Transfiguration in Uglich

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Gregory Carleton is Professor of Russian Studies and former Chair of the Department of International Literary and Cultural Studies at Tufts University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and his B.A. from the University of Virginia and has taught at Tufts for over 25 years. His specialties include Russian culture, literature, and history. He teaches on a wide range of topics, including courses for the Program in International Relations. His current research focuses on how Russia looks to its past and uses that history to help shape national identity and situate itself in the world. He is the author of three books on Russia, the latest being *Russia: The Story of War* (Harvard, 2017).

Dear Tufts Alumni and Friends,

As the proverb goes, “To know Russia is to know the Volga.” Sailing the Volga River was a royal tradition for Russia’s imperial rulers, including Peter the Great. In June 2022, join us for three nights in stately St. Petersburg, followed by a six-night voyage along some of Russia’s most picturesque lakes and a fabled stretch of the Volga, Europe’s longest river.

You will sail in luxury aboard the elegant *Volga Dream* from St. Petersburg to Moscow, stepping off to explore charming medieval towns, multicolored cathedrals, and graceful monasteries throughout the Russian heartland. We are thrilled to announce that Gregory Carleton, Professor of Russian Studies at Tufts, will lead this program as your faculty host. His expertise on Russian culture, history, and literature will add wonderful depth and context to your adventure.

Begin your three-night exploration of St. Petersburg with a before-hours viewing of the treasures in the Hermitage Museum. Enjoy panoramic city views from the Peter and Paul Fortress, the final resting place of various Romanovs, and travel to Peterhof, Peter the Great’s magnificent complex of palaces and gardens, with a special tour of the luxurious Royal Bathhouse. Delight in a perusal of the Fabergé Museum before boarding the elegant *Volga Dream*.

Take in stunning scenery as you cross Europe’s largest freshwater lake, and call at Svirstroy, where you will have the rare opportunity to observe Russian village life through the eyes of local residents. Arrive on the magical island of Kizhi, UNESCO-listed for its striking architecture, including a towering wooden church constructed without nails. In Goritsy, admire extraordinary medieval Russian frescoes inside the Ferapontov Monastery. Visit marvelously well-preserved Yaroslavl, the oldest city on the Volga. In medieval Uglich, attend a special *a cappella* concert inside a 15th-century lakeside church with exceptional acoustics. Disembark in the Russian capital, where you may enjoy an optional two-night postlude.

Book with confidence: Your deposit for this program will be fully refundable until 120 days before departure. Join this fascinating, small-ship cruise in the company of culturally curious travelers from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, and The William & Mary Alumni Association. Space is limited, so reserve your place soon on this astonishing voyage into the history and majesty of Russia.

Rest assured that all staff and fellow travelers as well as crew aboard *Volga Dream* will be fully vaccinated and tested prior to the journey.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Hunt
Director of Lifelong Learning
and Travel-Learn Program
tuftstravellearn.org

Hidden Gems of Russia's Heartland

St. Petersburg to Moscow Aboard *Volga Dream*

June 9 – 19, 2022

THURSDAY, JUNE 9: DEPARTURE

Depart for St. Petersburg, Russia on an overnight flight.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10: ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

Arrive in this former imperial capital in the afternoon, and transfer to the elegant Hotel Astoria for the next three nights. Enjoy a welcome cocktail party, with the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure.

R

SATURDAY, JUNE 11: ST. PETERSBURG

Delight in a special visit to the world-renowned Hermitage Museum before opening hours. Savor this splendid art palace, exploring its unparalleled masterpieces with rare intimacy, when crowds are few. Enjoy a welcome lunch nearby. Walk to the Peter and Paul Fortress, the final resting place of various Romanovs, and enjoy panoramic views of the city. This evening, attend a welcome reception and dinner at a special venue.

B,L,R,D

SUNDAY, JUNE 12: ST. PETERSBURG

This morning, travel to Peterhof, Peter the Great's magnificent complex of palaces and gardens, which has been renovated to its former Baroque splendor after near-destruction during World War II. In a wonderful highlight, delight in a special visit to explore the Royal Bathhouse, where Catherine the Great took her baths. Take a private hydrofoil back to St. Petersburg for an afternoon at leisure. Gather this evening to cruise along the city's famous canals, and experience the "White Nights," a period when round-the-clock daylight illuminates St. Petersburg. Enjoy a light reception of wine and canapés while sailing past the city's pastel palaces and monuments. Dinner is at leisure.

B,L,R

MONDAY, JUNE 13: ST. PETERSBURG / EMBARK VOLGA DREAM

Visit the neoclassical Shuvalov Palace, now home to the Fabergé Museum. The museum houses an extensive collection of decorative arts, including the famous and refined collection of nine imperial Fabergé Easter eggs. Later, stroll to St. Isaac's Cathedral, with its gilded dome and lavish interiors. Gather for lunch, then embark *Volga Dream* to start an enchanting six-night cruise. Familiarize yourself with the exceptional amenities on board as we cast off for our adventure. This evening, mingle with fellow travelers at a captain's welcome cocktail party before dinner.

B,L,R,D

TUESDAY, JUNE 14: SVIRSTROY

Begin the day standing on deck for a grand natural spectacle as *Volga Dream* sails through Lake Ladoga, Europe's largest freshwater lake, passing graceful willow, alder, and pine trees along the banks. Later, at the first port of call, the village of Svirstroy, you will be welcomed into a local resident's home for tea with jam and *pirozhki* (local pies). Learn about Russian traditions and village lifestyle from our hosts before visiting the nearby town. Return to *Volga Dream* for the remainder of the afternoon.

B,L,D



Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg



Fabergé Museum, St. Petersburg



Church of the Transfiguration, Kizhi

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15: KIZHI

Step off on the tiny island of Kizhi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Lake Onega, the second largest lake in Europe. See the Kizhi State Open Air Museum of History, Architecture and Ethnography, including its fairy-tale Church of the Transfiguration. This afternoon back on *Volga Dream*, learn to make traditional *blini* and *pelmeni* (crêpes and dumplings) at an onboard cooking class.

B,L,D

THURSDAY, JUNE 16: GORITSY

Cross Lake Beloye—formerly known as “the tsar’s fishing grounds.” Then visit the UNESCO-listed Ferapontov Monastery, whose frescoes are considered among the most extraordinary examples of medieval Russian art. Enjoy free time in this peaceful village, or tour the 14th-century Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery (“the Monastery of St. Cyril on the White Lake”), once one of the most important in Russia.

B,L,D

FRIDAY, JUNE 17: YAROSLAVL

In the morning, learn a few words in Russian at a language class before visiting Yaroslavl, the oldest city on the Volga River. It was unharmed during World War II, and many religious buildings dating from the 13th to 17th centuries remain intact. In the Spassky Monastery, see the Transfiguration Cathedral, adorned with murals depicting the apocalyptic visions of St. John, and view the richly frescoed Church of Elijah the Prophet. Take a stroll in the lively market before returning to *Volga Dream*.

B,L,D

SATURDAY, JUNE 18: UGLICH

Visit Uglich, whose medieval buildings loom above a sharp bend in the river. At the five-domed Church of the Transfiguration, an a cappella concert creates a starkly beautiful contrast with the glittering iconostasis surrounding the singers. Learn about the important role Uglich played in the rise of the Romanov Dynasty at the Chapel of Dimitry, built on the site where Ivan the Terrible’s youngest son met his fate. Tonight, join the captain for a farewell reception and dinner.

B,L,R,D

SUNDAY, JUNE 19: MOSCOW / DISEMBARK / RETURN

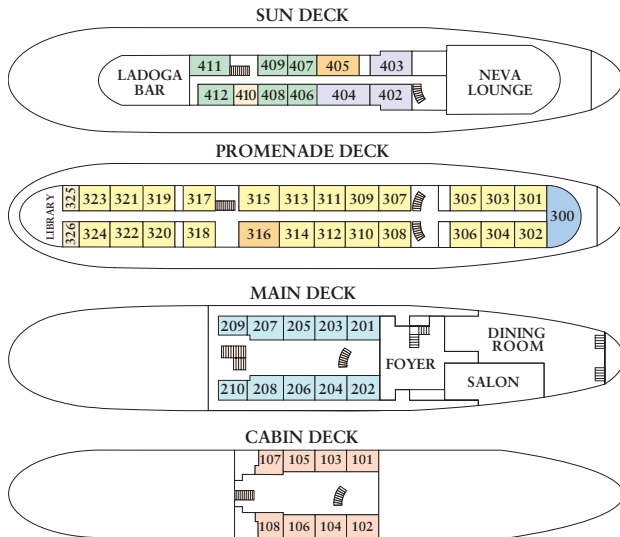
Disembark in Moscow after breakfast, and transfer to the airport for flights home.

B

An optional postlude in Moscow is offered June 19-21, 2022.

Please note: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Tufts University and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

VOLGA DREAM



One of the finest riverboats in Russia, *Volga Dream* is ideally suited to explore the scenic lakes and waterways between St. Petersburg and Moscow. Completely redesigned and refitted, this charming ship is kept scrupulously clean by a professional crew for whom safety is always a priority. All 56 staterooms have river views, marble-accented bathrooms, air conditioning, telephones, flat-screen satellite TVs, and a safe. Meals feature Continental cuisine alongside Russian specialties. The lounge, showcasing paintings by contemporary Russian artists, offers panoramic views and live music. The full-length sun deck is a lovely setting for relaxing and basking in the scenery. Other amenities include a fitness room, massage room, and sauna. A physician accompanies each cruise.

LAND/CRUISE RATES

(Per Person, Double Occupancy)

Cabins	Decks	Double Rates	Single Rates
SPECIAL OFFER FOR SINGLE TRAVELERS			
Standard Single Cabins 325, 326 & 410	Promenade & Sun Decks	-----	\$8,999
Standard Cabins 101 to 108 Twin beds.	Cabin Deck	\$7,999	\$9,999
Superior Cabins 201 to 210 Twin beds.	Main Deck	\$9,999	\$14,999
Deluxe Cabins 301 to 315 & 317 to 324 Double beds.	Promenade Deck	\$10,499	\$15,749
Superior Staterooms 406 to 409, 411 & 412 Twin beds.	Sun Deck	\$10,999	Inquire
Junior Suites 316 & 405 Double beds.	Promenade & Sun Decks	\$11,999	Inquire
Superior Junior Suites 402 to 404 Double beds.	Sun Deck	\$13,999	Inquire
Owner's Suite 300 Double beds.	Promenade Deck	\$15,999	Inquire
SPECIAL OFFER FOR SINGLE TRAVELERS			
Standard Single Cabins 325, 326 & 410	Promenade & Sun Decks	-----	\$8,999

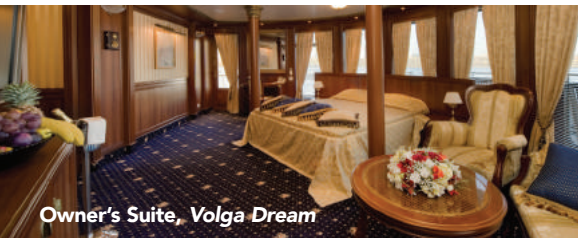
RATE INCLUDES

- Three nights hotel accommodations at the Hotel Astoria in St. Petersburg
- Six nights cabin accommodations aboard *Volga Dream*
- Meals as per the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at welcome and farewell dinners; complimentary open bar aboard the cruise with opportunities to taste authentic Russian vodka and cuisine
- Live piano performances on board *Volga Dream*
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Customary shipboard gratuities
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; optional Moscow postlude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Volga Dream



Owner's Suite, Volga Dream



Vodka tasting on board

TUFTS TRAVEL-LEARN HIDDEN GEMS OF RUSSIA'S HEARTLAND ▪ JUNE 9–19, 2022 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please contact Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, or fax: 212-344-7493; or complete this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person **(fully refundable until 120 days prior to departure)** payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print. Date of Birth

Date of Birth

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (Home) (Business)

Fax E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Volga Dream cabin preference (1) _____ (2) _____

I wish to share a cabin with _____

OPTIONAL POSTLUDE

☐ I/We wish to join the optional postlude in Moscow

Hotel Room Preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) ☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) Date

Front cover: Cathedral of the Annunciation, Moscow.

Back cover: Kirillo-Belozersky Monastery, Goritsky.

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MEDFORD, MA 02155

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