



Volga Dream Gold Program

11 nights from Moscow to St. Petersburg
Featuring Special Guest Speaker
Dr. Thomas Berry

Included:

2 Nights at the Hotel Royal Aurora in Moscow
6 Nights on board luxurious MS Volga Dream, and
3 Nights at the Hotel Angleterre in St. Petersburg



Guest Speaker Dr. Thomas Berry will be sailing onboard the Volga Dream for this special departure. A retired professor, Dr. Berry has lectured for John Hopkins University and the Smithsonian Institute. Dr. Berry will present five lectures based on the heritage of the Russian Tsars- *"Russian Culture during the Reign of Ivan the Terrible"*, *Peter the Great's European Tour & Development of Russian Art and Literature*, *"Catherine the Great: the Hermitage Art Collection," "Russian Literature of Nineteenth Century: Pushkin, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky"* and *Russian Ballet and Opera during the reign of Nicholas II."*

Day 1

June 28 MOSCOW

Upon arrival in Moscow, transfer to the deluxe Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel located in the historic city center right by the Bolshoi Theatre. You may spend the rest of the day at leisure relaxing after the flight or explore Moscow center on your own.

Meals: None



Day 2

June 29 MOSCOW

Begin the day with orientation tour of Moscow followed by a ride in the famed Moscow metro. After lunch in a local restaurant proceed to the Old Tretyakov gallery to view its extraordinary collection of Russian art, ranging from 12th-century icons to 20th-century paintings.

Optional: This evening enjoy opera or ballet performance at the famed Bolshoi Theatre (subject to the schedule of performances).

Meals: B, L

Day 3

June 30 MOSCOW

This morning enter the Kremlin for a visit to the Armory Museum, with its collection of tsarist thrones, ceremonial crowns, coaches and gifts of state. Continue to the beautifully frescoed 15th-century Assumption and Archangel Cathedrals. After lunch we transfer to the awaiting luxurious Volga Dream and begin our sailing along the Russian Waterways. Gather for Captain's welcome reception and dinner as we begin our cruise.

Optional: Visit the new Tretyakov Picture Gallery and discover its outstanding collection of XX century masterpieces by artists including Chagall, Kandinsky, and Malevich. The tour is guided by the professor of fine arts.

Meals: B, L, D

Day 4

July 1 UGLICH

We arrive this afternoon in Uglich, dating 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.

Meals: B, L, D



Day 5

July 2 YAROSLAVL

This morning visit the oldest city on the Volga River, Yaroslavl, a World Heritage site. In the Spassky Monastery see the Transfiguration of the Savior, adorned with murals depicting St. John's apocalyptic visions, and the richly frescoed Church of St. Elijah the Prophet. There will be time to stroll the lively farm market before reboarding the Volga Dream in time for lunch.

Meals: B, L, D

Day 6

July 3 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.

Meals: B, L, D



Day 7

July 4 KIZHI

This afternoon explore a 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.

Meals: B, L, D

Day 8

July 5 SVIR RIVER AND THE VILLAGE OF MANDROGI

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 brief visit to the vacation village of Mandrogi to experience daily life in a quaint wooden village.

Meals: B, L, D



Day 9

July 6 ST. PETERSBURG

Disembark this morning in St. Petersburg, which Peter the Great transformed from marshland into the vibrant city of islands, canals, bridges and pastel-colored palaces. Continue with an orientation tour of St. Petersburg and enter Peter and Paul Fortress, this family shrine of the Romanovs. Following lunch enter the famed Hermitage Museum, whose four hundred rooms contain spectacular examples of nearly all schools of Western art, including one of the greatest collections of French impressionist works. This evening check-in at the five-star Angleterre Hotel located opposite of the St. Isaak Cathedral.

Optional: This evening enjoy opera or ballet performance at the famed Mariinsky or Mikhailovskiy Theatre (subject to the schedule of performances).

Meals: B, L

Day 10

July 7 ST. PETERSBURG



Begin today at the meticulously restored Peterhof, St. Petersburg most famous and spectacular Imperial estate, often cited as the "Versalles of Russia". Visit authentic Bath Cottage and stroll in the vast Lower Park with 176 fountains of various forms and styles and four cascades, majestic palaces, numerous gilded statues of ancient gods and heroes.

Optional: Join the museum hostess for the tour of 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.

Meals: B, L

Day 11

July 8

ST. PETERSBURG



This morning we drive to Tsar's Village for a specially arranged visit to Catherine's Palace. See the exquisitely restored Amber Room and stroll in the formal gardens. Lunch and taste vodka at Podvorie, a restaurant in a traditional Russian log house.

Optional: In the afternoon return to St. Petersburg where you may wish to visit the St. Isaac Cathedral or the Church of Our Savior on the Spilled Blood, both within walking distance from the Angleterre Hotel.

Meals: B, L

Day 12

July 9

ST. PETERSBURG

Transfer to the airport this morning for your flight.

Meals: B

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City Tour in Moscow includes: Red Square (walking tour) with St. Basil's Cathedral (w/o entrance), Christ the Savior (entrance), Novodevichy Cemetery (entrance), metro ride tour, Vorobyevy Hills (photo stop).

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

Nights transfers (11pm – 6am) are not included in the program and has to be arranged extra.

ACCOMMODATION

MOSCOW – Marriott Aurora Royal Hotel

Built in 1999 The Marriott Aurora Royal Hotel is one of the most luxurious in town: with the Red Square and the Kremlin as well as the famous Bolshoi Theatre in walking distance, the hotel has the capital's commercial, political and cultural heart literally on the doorstep. With its arches and spires, the hotel gloriously blends traditional Moscow with modern conveniences.

ST. PETERSBURG – Angleterre Hotel

The Angleterre Hotel was one of the first hotels to be built in St Petersburg. Since the very beginning the hotel has continued the time-honored Russian traditions of hospitality, and is dedicated to offering comfort and refinement to its guests. From its charming and central location overlooking St Isaac's Cathedral, it is perfectly placed for discovering the history and romance of the city. The legendary hotel is managed by The Rocco Forte Collection and has obtained a new look after following extensive complex reconstruction in 2004.

Prices:**June 28- July 9, 2012**

Cabin Deck Standard Cabin (port holes) \$3,985pp double occupancy
Single Supplement \$1,550

Main Deck Superior Cabin \$4,685ppdo
Single Supplement \$1,875

Promenade Deck Deluxe Stateroom \$5,185ppdo
Single Supplement \$2,075

Sun Deck Deluxe Staterooms \$5,185ppdo
Single Supplement \$2,075

Promenade & Sun Deck Junior Suite \$6,185ppdo
Single Supplement \$4,150

Sun Deck Deluxe Junior Suite \$6,985ppdo
Single Supplement \$4,750

Owner's Suite \$8,485ppdo
Single Supplement \$5,875

Promenade Deck Standard Single \$6,085ppso

Sun Deck Deluxe Single \$6,885ppso

Services

Touring services as described in your itinerary. All touring services are operated by and arranged by the Volga Dream and touring is with other cruise guests.

Transfers

All transfers to and from the airport are included in the program (between 7:00am-11:00pm) provided you are arriving and departing the same days as the tour begins and ends. If you are arriving earlier or departing later, Exeter can arrange transfers for an additional charge. Unless otherwise noted, all transfer service is with a driver only, not a guide. In general, drivers have extremely limited English-speaking skills. Should you wish to have an English-speaking guide for your transfer, please inquire for the additional cost.

Guides

All guide services are arranged by the Volga Dream.

Tickets

All museum tickets are included as described in the program.

Airfare

None Included

BAGGAGE

The vehicles reserved for your itinerary can accommodate up to two medium-sized suitcases per person. If you intend to travel with additional luggage, please advise your travel consultant so appropriate arrangements may be made.

SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing arrangements have been made to show you the very best in each city. The program has been carefully planned to maximize your time and comfort. Please do understand that the itinerary cannot be modified at a guest's request.

Every effort has been made to confirm that scheduled sightseeing venues will be open at the time you plan to visit them. However, individual estates, museums, gardens and other points of interest can change their hours of operation at short notice. In the event that a particular attraction is closed on the day or time of your visit, your guide will offer alternative arrangements or rearrange your sightseeing to accommodate these unexpected events.

OPTIONAL EXPENSES

Charges for extra meals, transport, sightseeing services or other optional additions to your established itinerary are your responsibility and must be paid locally in the local currency.

GRATUITIES

Once on board, you will be given a tipping guideline for ship staff. This is payable in cash only and is generally recommended at \$17 per person, per day to cover all staff.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

PAYMENT

Exeter International must receive a deposit of twenty percent of the cruise total before reservations for your program can be confirmed. The balance of payment is due 90 days prior to departure. *No reservations are made on your behalf until this deposit has been received.* Availability and pricing is subject to change until this deposit is received. **All deposits are nonrefundable.**

CANCELLATION

Written cancellations received less than 90 days prior to departure are subject to the following forfeit of tour cost

- 90 – 60 days prior to departure, 50% of total tour cost
- 59 days or less prior to departure, 100% of total tour cost.

REFUNDS

We regret that refunds cannot be issued for arrangements confirmed on your itinerary but unused once your tour has begun.

INSURANCE

Exeter International strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance to protect your investment. You will find insurance costs noted on your invoice and insurance coverage information in your original booking packet. **Insurance must be purchased with your deposit to cover pre-existing conditions.**

PRICES AND ARRANGEMENTS

The tour price includes planning, handling and operational charges. Rates are quoted in US Dollars on the current rate of exchange and tariff 2011. Exeter International reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets. Devaluation of a foreign currency will be weighed against any tariff increases imposed.

All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.

Weather, heavy traffic and heavy crowds may affect the order of your sightseeing program.

Prices are subject to change until paid in full.

Visa fees are not included in the program.

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